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A

CONTINUATION,

OR,

SECOND PART,

OF THE

Moſt Pleaſant and Delightful

HISTORY

OF

Reynard the Fox.

Containing

Much Matter of Pleaſure and Content.

WRITTEN

For the Delight of Young Men, Pleaſure of the Aged, and Profit of all.

To which is added many Excellent Morals.

Here read the Fox, *his Nature, and his Art,*
Who in this Story acts the greateſt Part.
Him here you find advanced highly, and
In this his Grandeur for a time to ſtand;
Till he aſpiring further, Treachery
Contrived, and did for his Treaſon *die.*

LONDON, Printed by *A. M.* for *Edward Brewſter*, at the Sign of the *Crane* in St. *Pauls Church yard*, 1672.

TO THE

READER.

Courteous Reader,

IT is well known that publick Works neceſſarily undergo a publick Cenſure; and how diligently careful ſoever any Man is, who expoſeth this or that to the view of all, he ſhall meet with praiſe or diſpraiſe, more frequently according to the underſtanding or affection of the Cenſurer, than according to the worth or invalidity of what he preſents. Therefore ſince I beg not the Patronage of any, nor would I by any Man be miſunderſtood, and ſo cauſleſly cenſured,

as an impertinent Writer : I have to the ſubſequent *Work* (which I was minded to have committed to the Preſs without Marginal Notes) added a *Moral*, or *Expoſition* of my own ; in doing which, I hope no Man will be ſo diſingenious as to wreſt my words to a ſenſe contrary to my true and proper intent.

I, in the following Hiſtory, aim not at the reproach or ſlander of any Man or Men whatſoever ; but do only deſire thy Content and Recreation with delight and profit. *Farewell.*

Read and peruſe this Little Book, when care
And penſive thoughts to be expelled are.

THE

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A CON-

THE SECOND PART

Of the Pleasant and Delightful

HISTORY

OF

Reynard the FOX.

CHAP. I.

How the King and *Reynard* the Fox consulted together about chusing a chief Prelate in the place of *Bellin* the Ram, who (as you heard in the former Part) was convicted of the murder of *Keyward* the Hare (though falsly), and so put to Death, and how *Isegrim* the Wolf was made chief Prelate, *&c.* The Fox and he reconciled.

NOW after the Fox his Victory against Isegrim the Wolf, he was not only honoured by the King and all his Subjects with the Title of Lord Reynard, but also grew very inward and familiar with the King himself, insomuch as none could be admitted to any

private conference with his Majesty, unless he first made way by the favour of the Lord Reynard.

This did not a little disturb Sir Isegrim the Wolf, Sir Bruin the Bear, Sir Tibert the Cat, and many others who mortally hated Reynard. But his height seemed to be far beyond and above their malice; which although he well knew, he dissembled all he could; and least adverse fortune should again eclipse his Greatness, and so expose him to the mercy of his Enemies, which he knew would be but little, he plotted and advised with himself, which way he



might win their favour and make them more fast friends to himself, than they had been Enemies. To accomplish this, his subtile wit could find out no better way than to endeavour their promotion, as near, as might be with safety to his own Grandeur; for he was not ignorant, that if their advancement should come by his means, all malice

and

and inveterate hatred would be turned into love; and he himself should be most firmly rivited in his Greatness and Honour. Therefore, he waited on the King with all diligence, but conceals his intent for some time, until once on a day, the King being disposed to hunt, commanded the Lord Reynard to attend him; who very readily obeying, hunted with the King until dinner time; but when the King had dined, and Reynard also after him: The King (in a melancholy posture) sitting on a green Bank, held down his head, but spake not at all; Reynard, seeing the King sit thus dejected, most dread Soveraign, how is it, that your Majesty, who even now was chearful and in health, dining as heartily as any Prince in Christendom, is become so sad and disconsolate suddenly? Oh, said the King, my trusty friend Reynard, when I consider the State of my Realm how discomposed it is, how great the hatred and malice of my Subjects is one against another, especially of my Lords against you, whom I love so dearly, and see not which way to gratifie them, without displeasing you, I cannot chuse but be sorrowful and dejected. To this, the Fox replied (being glad at his heart that opportunity was offered to effect his before intended design), most mighty Prince, I am your Vassal, therefore let not your Majesty stick to displease and ruin me, so that thereby your peace and content may be procured. Hereat the King, looking somewhat more chearfully, said; Why Reynard dost thou in earnest love me so well, as to be content to be ruined for my advantage. Yea, my Lord, said Reynard, I would willingly lay down my life, if your Majesty think it will be your interest. By these words the Fox had so possessed the King with a firm conceit of his Loyalty, as he thought it better to let his discontented Nobles expiate their malice by length of time, than to attempt the putting an end thereto, to the prejudice of so faithful a friend; nevertels, knowing the deep policy of his friend Reynard, said to him in this manner. Lord Reynard, I pray thee tell me, canst not thou devise some way to gratifie these discontented Nobles with-

Every subtil Politician makes not an occasion for the accomplishing his ends, but waites till occasion be offered; as is here seen by the Fox, who would not discover his intent, till he saw a fit opportunity present it self.

out thy own injury, or my prejudice. To this the For answers (bowing his Body very Low), Mighty Sir, undoubtedly the matter your Majesty speaks of, may be so effected, as to bring no inconvenience on me, nor any discommodity to your self, but a benefit rather, and a continual peace, content, and satisfaction to all your most loyal Subjects. At this, the King assuming his wonted chearfulness again, asked, which way can you bring this to pass, so, as all parties may be pleased, and I my self, nor you my friend incur any blemish, since they have been so degraded, and slighted by us and you, as now we cannot well repair their loss of honour and credit with us and our Subjects; or whom the Prince disregards, the Commons will not esteem? It is true Sir, replied the For, but the way I intend to take, shall give a testimony of your Majesties Royal Love, Favour and Goodness, to all your Subjects in general, in winking at, and not taking notice of the errors and slips of some of the chief, and always of your Majesty's ancient Nobility; for so doing you will eternize your Name to posterity; and I also, when dead and gone, shall be commended as a Loyal Subject, forgetting anger and revenge of those, by whom I have been so grossly abused. To this, the King said, if your wisdom judges the matter feasible and honourable also, propound what is to be done, and I will proceed by your advice. Worthy Sir, said the For, it is not unknown to you, that since the death of Bellin your Chaplain, there hath been none to officiate in the Priests office, because in him his whole family was extinct by a Law, which confiscated all his Generation to be a prey to the Bear and the Wolf for ever. And among all your Majesty's Subjects, there is not any one more learned, or more fit (though he hath been my mortal foe, which I freely forgive), then is Sir Isegrim the Wolf; for to my knowledg, he hath been a Student in several Universities, and in law-practises is not a little skilled, besides he hath sate in the Chair of Physick also, so that, as I said before, he is most fit to be Bellin's successor, which will be a great honour and profit also to him,

him, if your Majesty will be pleased to add the title of Lord chief Prelate, and to admit no Priests under him, but what are of his Family. To this the King replies, stay Reynard, how shall this be, since Sir Isegrim is so generally feared and hated of the Commons, that instead of coming to hear him, they will all run away with might and main. It is very wisely thought on, Mighty Sir, said the Fox; but for this we have a remedy; so soon as he is chosen chief Prelate, he must put on Bellin's furred Gown, which he used always to wear; then the Commons will be no more afraid of him. Ha, Reynard, said the King, here is a slip in your Politicks, it were better that he should put on Bellin's furr Gown before he is chosen. Certes, quoth the Fox, Princes have great foresight than their Subjects. Yet I doubt, if any one desire him to put it on first, he will take it as a mockery, unless he be assured of the place and honour intended him. That he shall be, said the King, for I will send for him while you are present, and I will endeavour a reconciliation between him and you, and then propose the matter to him. Mighty Sir, said the Fox, if you propose not the matter first, as being my Request to your Majesty on his behalf, all endeavour of reconciliation will be fruitless; for he will be sure to revile me, and that in such wise, as I fear will further provoke your Majesties displeasure against him, and so the wished end not be answered. Go to then, said the King, I will send for him, Sir Bruin, and all the Nobles; and then in a full Council we will consult about the matter, in which Council you shall speak for me and your self, as you shall judg most convenient: for in this meeting of Nobles only (without the Commons), Sir Isegrim needs not be spoke to, about Bellin's Gown, but may take his place among us with his own Garments he is wont to wear. At this the Fox making humble obeysance to the King; said, Mighty Prince, your Wisdom far exceeds our conceivings, that are of the vulgar sort. Therefore, we all should acknowledg that you are not set over us for naught, but to guide and inform, as well as to rule and govern;

with

Treachers subjects fit for Princes mott.

with many more such flattering speeches he courts the King for the accomplishing his own subtil ends, as you shall hear anon. The next day, the King sent Sir Firapel the Lizard to summon all the Nobles to meet at his Royal Palace early in the morning following. According to this Summons



they came. Now when they were come to the place appointed for that meeting, the King and Sir Reynard came both together

gether among them: for they were together almost all the night before. First of all the King in friendly manner salutes Sir Isegrim the Wolf, and Sir Bruin the Bear, telling them he wondred they were such strangers, and would have been glad to have seen them ere that time. This favourable and loving entertainment from the King, raised up in them a fresh remembrance of their grievances, hoping now they had a seasonable opportunity to make their complaints, and find redress accordingly. But when the King perceived their intention, which could not but be known, by those so often spightful frowns upon Sir Reynard cast from them both, which the King himself had observed, he begins thus: Loving friends, the intent of this days meeting is not to determine differences between party and party, nor is it to redress private grievances; therefore of them I would have no mention made at this time; but a more weighty matter is now in hand, which concerns us all, and this is the business of Religion, touching which we have all been too remiss. When the Bear and Wolf heard this, they bowed themselves and sate down. So when all were sate, the King spake to Sir Reynard, calling him Cousin, and said, Cousin Reynard, our pleasure is, that you declare to the Assembly our full intention concerning this business. Reynard, bowing very low to the King first, afterward to the Assembly, began to speak thus.

Worthy Lords, and Subjects of the most puissant King of Beasts, be it known unto you, that our Mighty Prince, here present, did for several good Causes (as especially for Murther by himself confessed) deprive Bellin the Ram both of Life and Dignity, confiscating his whole Family to be a prey to Sir Bruin the noble Bear, and Sir Isegrim the learned Wolf, and this confiscation of body and goods to continue from generation to generation, and to descend to the families and Lineages of the said Sir Bruin, and Sir Isegrim for ever, and longer if possible. By means of this, we (with grief be it spoken), are wholly destitute of a Priest, or any to officiate in Bellin's office, and

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are like to continue so, if some speedy cure be not ta-
ken. Therefore the High and Mighty King of Beasts,
our Lord and Master, hating Princely care and affection
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towards all his Subjects in general, and to you his Nobles in a special manner, hath thought good to call this Assembly at this time, and with your advice, and consent, to make choice of some one, that shall be judged most fit for the Priests Office; and when you here have chosen the Person, his Majesty will present him to be approved by a general Assembly of the Commons, whom he will summon together very speedily for that purpose. Having spoken this, he sate down. Then the King said; I approving of all my Cousin Reynard hath said, do heartily wish that out of you may be chosen an able and fit person, rather than from among the Commons; for should one of the common sort be advanced to so high a dignity; it is very questionable, whether he would know how to demean himself, &c. therefore I would have you to proceed to your choice of one from amongst your selves. After this, for a little space the whole company were silent, and sate looking one upon another, yet not without musing, and imagining on whom this so noble office would fall; each wishing he might be the person; the Wolf and Bear especially supposed they might have the office, the Bear because the Lord Reynard (whom he hated) had stiled him Noble; the Wolf, because he was termed Learned, undoubtedly believed he should be chosen: so the wrath and choler of both was somewhat abated, and Sir Bruin first stood up and said: Most mighty King, we your Loyal Subjects cannot but acknowledg your Majesties undoubted care and zeal for the well being of all your leige people, therefore must needs greatly approve of your high and noble intention, so amply and plainly delivered by the noble Lord Reynard. Next spake Sir Firrapel the Libard, and said, The Office intended to be conferred this day is Noble, and the person fit for the management thereof should be honest, wise, and also learned; therefore I hope it will be conferred on such a one, and on no other. For my part I know my own incapacity, therefore do not in the least desire it; but were I fit for it, I would chuse it above all dignities in the world. Then the King said to Sir Isegrim, how is it Sir Isegrim, that you are so

The hopes of honour and profit pacifieth the minds of malicious persons; especially where their advancement is procured by such, as they mortally hated.

silent, I am informed by my Cousin Reynard, that you are a great Scholar, very wise and learned in Law, Divinity, and Physick, therefore I hoped you would have proffered to take on you this great charge, which I, my Cousin Reynard, and all my Nobles (I suppose) will freely confer on you, and on no other. Now the Wolf, greedy enough of honour, perceiving, that by the Lord Reynard's means he was likely to be greatly honoured stood up, and after obeysance made, thus spake:

By the Wolf here is denoted greedy and unsatiable men.

Most puissant King, the cause of my silence was not, because I was unwilling to undergo any charge or trouble for the good of your Majesty and whole Kingdom, but because I was ashamed of the discord that had been between my Lord Reynard, my self, and some other of your Loyal Subjects, about matters not worthy to be mentioned in so noble an Auditory; for that cause only was I silent. We, said the King, remit and forgive all that hath passed between my Lord Reynard, Sir Bruin, your self, or any other, and will have no more mention made thereof. My Lord Reynard hath highly commended you to me, which surely no enemy would do. He hath also praised Sir Bruin so, as I will not forget to honour him also. And for Sir Tibert, because he is swift of foot, and fit for imployment, also politick and subtil, I (as soon as opportunity serves) will think of some office, wherein he may benefit himself, and please me.

With these words they were all highly contented; the Wolf gave his hand to the Fox in token of friendship; the Bear and Cat also shook hands with the Fox. After these Ceremonies were passed, they all sate down. And by a General Vote, Sir Isegrim was chose chief Prelate.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

How the Fox adviſed the Wolf and his Children to wear *Bellin's* Gown, and the cloathing of *Bellin's* kindred.

THe Fox and Wolf being thus reconciled, held a counſel together how they might ſtrengthen each other in the power they had thus obtained. The Fox begun his diſcourſe in this manner: My moſt dear Uncle, I remembring the wrong I did you more than once, and now by the Kings favour, having an opportunity to recompence you, and my Couſin Bruin, but you eſpecially, I think I have done it to purpoſe. You have indeed, good Couſin, replied the Wolf, and I and mine ſhall always acknowledg our ſelves beholding to you, not only for the time preſent, but ever after during life. But how I ſhall paſs the cenſure of the commons I cannot tell. Tuſh, ſaid the Fox, let me alone for that, do but follow my advice and all ſhall be well: your advice Couſin, ſaid the Wolf, that I will as long as I have breath. Well then, quoth the Fox, do thus; firſt of all, trim your ſelf handſomly, then take Bellin's furr Gown, and make it as fit to your body, as is poſſible, that head ears, and all may be covered; having done this, thoſe Beaſts which before hated and fled from you will now follow, love, and adore you, eſpecially if you under that garment conceal your own churliſh nature; pardon me Uncle, that I ſpeak ſo. Good Couſin, ſaid Sir Iſegrim, think not that I will take offence, where I am to take advice. Well then, if it be ſo ſaid the Fox, I will proceed further; I beſeech you good Uncle, as you love your ſelf and me, [illegible] at any time, when you are among the Commons in the day time, in the night uſe your liberty, Proviſion muſt be had. You ſpeak wiſely ſaith the Wolf, I could never have thought of all this; but good Couſin tell me what I ſhall do, when I come to ſay maſſe, the hoarſeneſs of my voice will bewray me. O good Uncle, ſaid the Fox, are you ſo weak, as not

Covetous Perſons are eaſily perſwaded to diſguiſe themſelves, and to diſſemble their churliſh natures, for effecting honour and profit.



to find an excuse for that? tell them, to whom you are to read; that you have gotten a grievous cold. I but Cousin, said the Wolf, that excuse will serve but once. Ah Uncle, said

said Reynard, if you mean to thrive in your office, you must not stick to lye apace. Besides you being chief, need not appear above once a year, your children, and the youngest of your kindred have not so hoarse a voice as you; when they grow old, they must read but seldom, but now being young they will stand you in good stead, if they be exactly cloathed with the Gowns of Bellin's kindred; otherwise Uncle all is nothing worth: and be sure to give them the same advice I now give you, that is, not to shew their teeth in the day time, &c. Indeed Uncle, I wonder you should think the excuse of saying you have a cold, will not hold water; do you not well know, that the Ram's kindred have colds often, and cough much. It is true good Cousin, said the Wolf, I well remember it, for when I went to hunt for any of them in the night, I usually was directed to the place where they were by their coughing. Well then said Reynard, I hope Uncle you own my Counsel as right and good. Yes with all my heart Cousin, said Isegrim: but now I think of it, you spake of my Children and Kindred; I perceive not as yet that any thing was said of them by the King and Lords at this last counsel. Uncle, said Reynard, you seem to be very scrupulous, and to doubt where there is no cause; know you not that every Captain puts who he will in place under him, and why not every chief Prelate? Blame me not good Cousin, said Isegrim, for I fear the Commons, so soon as they hear my name, will all cry out, Not Isegrim, not Isegrim. Well Uncle, said the Fox, if that be your suspition we will seek some way to avoid what you most fear. I my self will hasten to the King, and acquaint him what hath passed between us, as also with this most material cause of fear: and when I have communed with him for some time, I will request him to send for you, then do you be sure to come (with Bellin's Gown exactly fitted to your Body) into the Kings Presence, and doubt not but the success shall answer your desire. In the mean while, let us both go home to our Mospasts, and early in the Morning I purpose to go to the King; do you wait in readiness at home, till you are sent for. So

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the Fox returned to his Castle, and the Wolf to his own house.

CHAP. III.

How the Fox communed with the King, touching Sir *Isegrim's* doubt, and thereupon Sir *Isegrim* was sent for to Court, and created Earl of *Pitwood*.

EArly in the morning the Fox came to Court, and being suddenly admitted, after obeysance made, he said, Hail my Soveraign Lord. The King seeing him, looked pleasantly upon him, and said, what are you and your Uncle good Friends? Yes, said the Fox, I humbly thank your Majesty, all malice and rancor is laid aside: and all the evening last, I was instructing him how he should behave himself in this high Office your Majesty hath conferred upon him. You did well Reynard, said the King; but did you mind him of wearing Bellin's fur Gown? Yes noble Sir, said the Fox, and he is so far resolved of it, that I judge ere this he hath fitted the Gown to his own body. If so, saith the King, it is well; then there is no doubt but he will be well liked of. I have given commandment already, that the heads of all the families of the Commons be summoned to appear here, after the third day, now next coming. Therefore I would have Sir Isegrim be ready at the time appointed. Then the Fox said, ready he will be to be sure; and if he observe all that I advised him to, will undoubtedly gain the Commons to be on his side. Nevertheless there is one thing which troubles him, and makes me suspicious also, and that is, lest when your Majesty shall present him by the name of Sir Isegrim, which name all the Commons know, they immediately (not minding his Garment or Person) cry out, No Isegrim no Isegrim. 'Tis true Reynard, said the King, this is a considerable matter, and I wish I could remedy the same. Sir, said the Fox, you may very well; for if your Majesty be pleased to honour him

him with the title of Count, it matters not of how mean a place, he shall bear the name of that place, and not his own name any longer. Well then said the King, I will do so; here is a Wood, not far from this place near his own house, and it is called Pitwood, that Wood I will settle upon him and his heirs for ever, and he shall be created Earl of Pitwood. Therefore send for him immediately to come before us. Then Reynard stepping forth called to Sir Tibert, who waited in the Court, and commanded him to go presently, and bring Sir Isegrim to the Kings presence; Sir Tibert ran speedily to the House, and when he had entred the House and saw Sir Isegrim, he knew him not, until he had more strictly observed his countenance and visage, then he knew him, and said; Certes, I knew you not Sir in this new fashioned Gown; the King hath sent to speak with you presently. So away went the Wolf and Tibert the Cat to the Court. When they came there, Reynard the For came forth, and conducted his Uncle into the Kings presence, and said; here most noble Prince is your lately made chief Prelate, is he not very trim and neat? Yes, Cousin Reynard, said the King, I like him passing well; but had you not told me how he was dressed, I should scarcely have known him; sure his beard is shaved, or else he seems younger than when we saw him last. Mighty Sir, said the For, I advised him to trim himself thus, judging it most convenient; besides I have given him other particular Instructions, which I hope he will observe. Then the King turning to Sir Isegrim said, assuredly Sir Isegrim you have found our Cousin Reynard to be your most faithful friend, not only by advising you what to do, but also by informing us, how to assure and confirm that honour on you, which we and our Lords have bestowed so freely on your self and on no other; and that is, by conferring a further title of honour; that so your name (so dreadful to the Commons), may be laid aside, and your other Title (being unknown to them), find acceptance and applause with them all. The Wolf hearing this, bowed so low, as his mouth touched the ground,

ground, then raising himself a little, he began to speak in this manner:

Most puissant King, how infinitely am I obliged to your Majesty, and to the noble Lord Reynard here present; and that in a time, when I least of all expected any favour from your self, and less from him (whom I hated, therefore I here before your Majesty beg his pardon), of whose loyalty your Majesty hath undoubtedly had sufficient testimony, otherwise your Princely wisdom could not have embraced one, rendred so vile by me, and other of your Subjects, for which I here again humbly beg your Majesties pardon. Sir Isegrim, Sir Isegrim, you are already pardoned, said the King, therefore rise up (for Sir Isegrim had prostrated himself on the ground), and hearken to what I shall further say. I have not only pardoned you already, but I do now also, besides the honour of chief Prelate, confer on you the Earldom of Pitwood, which Wood you undoubtedly know, for it lies near your Mansion House; that Wood I give to you, your heirs, and successors for ever; and after the name of that Wood, so shall you be called ever after, and your old name Isegrim, shall be no more mentioned, but your title shall run thus: Count of Pitwood, Lord Paramount; and for brevity sake, you shall be called, Lord Pitwood. When the King had ended his speech, Isegrim (almost ready to leap out of his skin for joy) knew not what to say; but bowing himself with great reverence to the King and the Fox, said, he in all humility acknowledged the Kings immense bounty toward him, and the Foxes great love he would never forget; besides he added, that in the exercise of his Function, he would study nothing so much as the Kings interest; and that of his own profit he would be always least mindful, with many other such like protestations; yet in all these he lyed egregiously, as you shall hear anon.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

How the Bear and the Cat offended at the great Honours of Sir *Isegrim*, conspired his death; and how the Fox pacified them till the great Assembly of the Commons was over.

WHen the rumour of the Wolf's great Preferments was spread among the Nobles, Sir Bruin the Bear, and Sir Tibert the Cat hearing thereof, stomacked the matter not a little. And therefore reasoned among themselves thus; How much is this Caitiff the greatest murtherer of all Beasts, advanced to Honour above us! if we suffer him to abide in this height, we must necessarily be his Vassals: besides, how great soever our grievances be, we can never find redress because the For his great friend is the Kings only Favourite; so that every way we are like to suffer, not only by himself, but also by the For, who is now so much his Intimate, as he can crush us at pleasure; and when we would complain, the For perhaps will take our Petition, but the King shall never see it. Having thus reasoned, they sate silent for some time, until at length the Cat, with a courage undaunted, thus spake. Noble Sir Bruin, you are mighty, and I am crafty; it is not to be doubted, but if you and I agree together, we may acquit our selves of this burden. Well said Cousin Tibert, quoth the Bear; if you can propose the way, I will endeavour to follow your proposal. Why Sir, said the Cat, the way I would have you take, is this, go unto Sir Isegrim, and congratulate his happy advancement, expressing as great joy and affection as is possible then invite him to your Castle to dinner, and when he hath dinned (for I know he will eat so long, as until he is scarce able to stir) invite him to walk (telling him it is for his health) out into the Forest, where when you have him in a convenient place, fall upon him and tare him to pieces. Oh, Sir Tibert, said the Bear, I am afraid to set upon him alone, for he is devilish fierce, and for all that I know may

kill me. Good Uncle, said the Cat, fear him not, I will follow close after you, and when you have got him down I will tare out his throat I'le warrant you. Well then, said the Bear, if you will be as good as your word, follow me, I will go to Sir Isegrim presently. So they both hasted, and got to the Wolfs house in a short space. When they were thither come, they found the Lord Reynard and Sir Isegrim together; for they were discoursing about several weighty matters. The For observing the countenance of these two Guests to be filled with hatred, howsoever they covered the same with a dissembled cheerfulness; began to speak to them in this manner: Noble Friends, had I not been engaged here with my Lord Pitwood (for so his Majesty will have him called ever after) I had ere this time sent for you to acquaint you with his Majesties royal intention concerning you both; for so soon as this great Convention is over, which now will be (as you very well know) the next day after to morrow, our puissant King royally intends to honour you Sir Bruin with the Earldom of the Forests, an honour which the greatest of Subjects must needs hold himself well contented with. And for you Sir Tibert, he intends to make you Steward of his house; and if that like you not, he purposeth to command the Earl of Pitwood, here present, to admit you for his principal Secretary, a place of unspeakable profit undoubtedly. When the Bear and the Cat heard such mountains of Honour and Profit were like to fall in their Laps, and that so suddenly, their countenances and intentions were quite altered, and they with all due reverence sainted and honoured the Lord Pitwood, calling him the honourable Lord chief Prelate; and for the Lord Reynard, they told his Lordship they should never be able sufficiently to trumpet out his Praises, who had so highly promoted his Enemies in an extraordinary manner. After this they took their leaves, and departed far more jocond than they came.

Evil men once advanced, are mortally hated of their friends, because they also see no ho hopes of sharing with them in ho nor and pro fit; but if once they see a probability of their own advancement, they flatter, and basely crouch to those, whom they just before would have killed, as appears by this Chapter.

CHAP

CHAP. V.

Of the Assembly of the Commons, and what passed there.

THe Bear and Cat being thus pacified, as you have heard, by the hopes of so great preferment, nothing could let the intentions of Reynard the For, in advancing his Uncle Hegrim, lately stiled Earl of Pitwood; therefore he, now fully assured of accomplishing his end, and of the further advancement of his own Grandeur, rested well contented till the morning appeared, which ushered in the day on which the general Assembly was to be held. Then early before the Sun was fully risen, he hastens to Court, not forgetting to call upon his Uncle to be ready to come with his Lineage before the King and Nobles; but his Uncle was ready ere he could come to his House, yet all his Lineage (according to Reynards advice) were not come together; therefore the For said, Dearest Uncle, I am glad to see you and yours in so good forwardness, I hope we shall see your whole Family together by and by. I will go first to Court, do you come after as soon as you can. So Reynard delayed not but went immediately to the Court, and saluted the King in these words, Most Puissant, most Heroick, and most mighty Prince, I your Vassal, and most loyal Subject, thought my self above all others most obliged to salute your Majesty first in the morning of so happy and glorious a day, as this is like to be. Well Reynard, said the King, you are not come before you are welcome. How is it you brought not your Uncle and his Family, according as you told me you would. My Lord, said the For, my Uncle is ready, but all his Lineage were not come together; nevertheless, I am assured they will wait upon your Highness presently. Whilst he was speaking this, Sir Tibert the Cat called to the For and said, My Lord, here is the Lord Pitwood come with a great Train of such Gallants as I never in all my life saw the like. So the For stepping forth, took his Uncle by the hand, and led



him into the Presence-Chamber; and when he had, by the Kings order, placed him in a seat of State made for the purpose, he called in all his Linage, who as they came in one by one made reverend obeysance to the King, and stood round about their Father's Seat. Then the King said, my Lord Pitwood, you are welcome, I am glad to see you so decently, and

and all yours here so exactly, fitted with these Gowns of Bellin and his Kindred; assuredly you are greatly obliged to our Cousin Reynard for his so witty invention. It is so, mighty Sir, said the Wolf (standing up, and bowing his Head very low) I and my whole Family here present do acknowledg his great favour, and next unto the continual yielding of our Homage and Fealty to your Royal Majesty most due, we shall ever own him as our principal Patron, the Preserver of our Honour, and good Name, among your Majesties Subjects in general. By this time Sir Bruin the Bear, and all the other Nobles were come. All of them applauded the Habit and Gestures of the Wolf and his Linage. And indeed they looked so demure, that the King and all his Nobles (except the Fox only) were almost throughly perswaded they had put on Bellin's Nature with his Garment. So they being all highly contented, after a short Banquet, went forth to the Commons, who were gathered together in great multitudes in a large Meadow nigh unto the Palace. Now among that huge concourse were several of Bellin's Kindred incognito, and very many of his Friends, yet they durst not be known to be such, for fear of danger. No sooner did the Commons see the King and his Nobles walking towards them, but they all shouted, and cryed out aloud, All hail our noble King. An happy presage, noble Sir, said the Fox to the King. But when the Lord Pitwood and his Linage came forward, clothed all in the Garments of Bellin and his Kindred, they were all amazed, some said (pointing to the Lord Pitwood) that was Bellin's Son, see you not what a comely proper person he is? Others said, nay surely it cannot be so, but we rather judg it some Outlandish Beast, come as an Embassador to our King; for look you, said they, how many Attendants he hath, all clothed in the same Livery he himself wears. But the Friends of Bellin said one to another, we wish it be not Isegrim the Wolf and his Retinue, all grand Enemies to our friend Bellin and his posterity. Nevertheless, Bellin's kindred were all silent, for they knew him well enough, but durst not say so much. Now as soon as

Disguises and pretences of sanctity do often deceive.

The common people generally are affected with novelties, and look more on the Habit and Gestures, then into the nature and condition, of such as are recommended to them.

as the King himself, Reynard the For, Pitwood the Wolf, and his Retinue, were ascended a Scaffold purposely made, the place could contain no more, therefore all the Nobles took their places as near the Scaffold as possible; only Sir Bruin the Bear, and Sir Firrapel the Libbard were for that day Marshals of the Field, and so had no certain place; also Grimbard the Brock was made Crier of the Court, and that he might the better be heard (his voice being not very good) was thrust up upon the Scaffold, though there he stood in little ease. Thus all things being ordered, as well as was possible among so many Beasts; the King gave a sign for silence, by laying his hand upon his mouth; then the Brock (according as he had been before instructed) by three O yes's, commanded silence upon pain of imprisonment. Silence being made, The King rose up, and bowing his head a little, began to speak thus. My Friends and Subjects, I called you together this day, about an exceeding weighty matter. It is not unknown to many of you, that we removed and displaced, and for a known and notorious Murder, put to death our late Chaplain Bellin the Ram, & condemned his posterity for ever. Since which time I have not only been without a Chaplain, but you also have been destitute of Teachers, because all my Chaplain's kindred were also displaced and condemned for his enormous Crime. Therefore to remedy this Grievance, we with the advice and consent of our Lords here present, have made choice of a very worthy and highly learned person now standing next our own person, of whose integrity and worth we have had sufficient and very ample Experience. This person with his whole Lineage we recommend to you to be Priests for you and all our leige People throughout our Dominions. Having said this, he sate him down

Then Reynard the For, rose up, and after he had with a great shew of courtesie, bowed himself to the Assembly, he began to speak thus. Worthy Sirs, his Majesty our Royal King, taking care of the well-being of all his Subjects in general, could not without grief think of the sad and deplo-

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rable ſtate you all have been left in ſince the Death (* Oh it grieves me to ſpeak it!) of Bellin, and downfall of his Poſterity; therefore he in his Princely wiſdom (for Princes certainly are far wiſer then their Subjects) hath thought of a moſt excellent expedient to prevent the enormities you were too-too apt to run into, for want of Teachers and Guides to direct you better: Therefore he adviſed with this incomparably learned Lord Pitwood, requeſting as far as beſeemeth the Majeſty of a King to requeſt him, for the good of himſelf and all his liege people, to improve his great Learning to the general good of us all. This Noble Lord, was ſo far from excuſing himſelf, and avoiding, or ſhunning this burthenſome office, as he readily and cheerfully accepts of the ſame, and not only ſo, but alſo promiſeth to engage all his Lineage (little leſs learned than himſelf) in the ſame Offices and Employments. We the Lords, being then all preſent and ſetting in Councel by his Majeſties command, ſeeing his great readineſs and alacrity, and alſo knowing how conducent it would be to the well being of all, could not chuſe, but (by our joint conſent) vote him to be the Lord chief Prelate throughout all his Majeſties Dominions. Thus was he, not without mature deliberation, choſen by us, and the choice confirmed by the King himſelf.

* The true Emblem of an Hypocrite.

Before he had ended theſe words, there was heard a rumor among the multitude, which at length grew louder and louder. Then the Fox feared ſome one or other had deſcried the falſe maſk he (with his greateſt cunning) had put upon the buſineſs. But, after ſilence was commanded, it proved not altogether ſo. For among thoſe who ſtood furtheſt from the Scaffold, there were ſome who asked, what Lord that was that then ſpake? which queſtion made the greateſt part of the By-ſtanders to laugh, ſuppoſing it not poſſible for any of the Company not to know the Fox. This noiſe being heard among them by others that ſtood farther off, made them alſo to ask one another, what the noiſe meaned; they that ſtood neareſt the Scaffold were moſt of them Bellin's friends, who had placed themſelves there, on purpoſe the better

Miſtakes in a multitude, do ſometimes give opportunity to the Judicious, of making their minds known.

Subtil Politicians whensoever they fear a discovery of their false Paints and Disguises, immediately betake themselves to lying & smooth words full of guile.

better to descry the Lord Pitwood's person (as he was called) whom they plainly knew to be Isegrim the Wolf; therefore presently, being asked by the Crier, what the noise meant? they said, the Company behind desired to know of what Country the Lord Pitwood was, some of them supposing, others affirming they had never seen him before, and therefore were not willing to have a stranger imposed upon them. The For hearing this, again bowed himself to the Company, and said: Loving Friends, and fellow Subjects, I marvel not, that it is supposed by some, and believed by others, that this honourable Lord Pitwood here present, is a stranger or foreigner; because he indeed all his life-time, with his whole Family and Lineage, hath lived a life so obscure and secret, as never did any Monk in a Cloyster live more retired; besides he is so holy and devout, as the like of him is not to be found in the whole World: Moreover he is so silent, and of so few words, so humble gentle, affable and kind, as I know not whether any mortal wight living may be compared unto him. And that is the reason he is so little known, for had he discovered himself before the King by his Princely Wisdom took notice of him, undoubtedly none of you would in the least have suspected him to be a stranger: But this your suspition had indeed ground enough, therefore his Majesty is not in the least offended with you, but wills that you give your Approbation by holding up your right Hands.

The most ignorant most readily assent to, what they understand not.

Then the greatest part of the Assembly held up their right hands, and many that scarce heard what was said held up both. After this, Pitwood the Wolf and his Linage bowed themselves to the Company, but spake not a word, least their Teeth should be seen.

When this was done, the King willed the For to speak to the Assembly (before they were dismissed) about Pitwood's Linage. Therefore the For standing up again, said, His Majesty is highly pleased with this your Approbation, and commanded me to thank you all: His further pleasure is, that the Lord Pitwood's Linage be recommended to you for your

you assent for confirming their Offices under himself, now Lord chief Prelate; as to these persons, in declaring the worth and goodness of their Father, I have not detracted any thing from them; for they all have led the same life with him, have been always under his Tutelage, and still will be under his Governance; so, as although any of them should by reason of his Youth err, yet his Father will quickly espy it and reclaim him; therefore I think you cannot do better for your selves, nor better please the King's Majesty, than to discover your assent by holding up your hands. Then, as before, the greatest part held up their hands; and Pitwood and his Lineage also bowed themselves again, but spake not. When this business was so well effected to the great content of the King and Nobles but especially of the Fox and Wolf; It was thought convenient to dismiss the Commons. Therefore Grimbard the Brock was commanded to intimate so much to them, which very formally he did, first by three O yes's commanding silence, afterward by speaking to the Assembly in this manner.

Our Puissant King and all his Nobles give great thanks to you all, for your so ready attendance this day, and also for that you have so chearfully assented to what was proposed; therefore for your better commodity, and that you may with greater ease journey to your own homes, his Royal Majesty and all his noble Lords here present have commanded me to dismiss you, and you are dismissed for this time. Upon this the Assembly brake up, some greatly contented, others doubtful, and not a few plainly sorrowful for what had passed. When the Field began to be emptyed, and it was thought there was way enough for the King and his Nobles to walk to the Palace: The King first descended, after him the Lord Reynard, then the Lord Pitwood and his Lineage, with such seeming soberness, as many of the Commons that stayed to see the sight, admired the gravity of him and his. The Fox observing the Lord Pitwood was gazed upon, kept a little back, and walked directly before him bare-headed; the Bear and Cat seeing this, placed themselves on each

Knaves and fools (the first for self-ends, the last for imitation) honour the worthy, and most wicked

side of him likewise bare headed; after him followed his Lineage all in order, and after them the Nobles, and lastly Grimbard the Black, leading a great Troop of Servitors, that attended on the King and Nobles. In this Equipage marched they, till the King was ready to enter his own Palace; then did the Trumpets sound, and all manner of other Musick was heard in a melodious manner, constantly playing until all the whole company was entred the Royal Palace.

CHAP. VI.

How the King invited his Nobles the next day to a Feast, and what passed thereat.

When all the Nobles and their Followers were entred the Palace, the King willed them all to sit down, and told them, the business of the day holding so long, and the issue also of the same being dubious, he would not resolve what to do; but now his affairs being setled according to his wish, he desired they would all accompany him on the morrow at a Feast which should be prepared for them; and then he would further declare his mind. They hearing this, all took their leaves and departed, every one to his own home.

In the mean while the King sent out his Purveyors into all parts, who provided store of Venison, and other Cates in abundance. When the morrow was come, and noon drew nigh they all came much about one time: and after obeysance made, all took their places at the Table, the King sitting down on the right hand of the King, and the Wolf on his left, and all the other Nobles in order, giving place still to Pitwood's Lineage; so as they sate all intermixt among them. When they were all sate, the Servitors brought in Meat, dressed in divers manners with curious Sauces, and set it before them. Grace being ended, the King cuts first of the Dish that stood nearest him, bidding his Guests to fall to. They all in like manner lay hands of what was nearest

neareſt them, and ſoon made a clear board. Then thoſe empty platters removed, other full Diſhes, provided for a ſecond courſe, were ſet on the Table; while this was doing the King calls to his Servitors for Wine, which was brought, and the Cup given into the Kings hand, he drank to all his Gueſts, bidding them welcome, withal commanding to fill unto every one that ſate at the Table. This being done they fall to the ſecond courſe, and then began to talk a little. The Servitors fearing by their eating ſo much none would be left for them, take away the ſecond courſe, and bring in the third without bidding; and as before fill Wine to the King firſt, and afterward to the whole Aſſembly. And this order they kept in all the following courſes till the Feaſt was done. Now when the Feaſt was ended, the King and all the Company looked very chearfully one upon another, and the King firſt of all ſaid. How bravely did our Couſin Reynard manage his buſineſs yeſterday? To this the Wolf (who during the Feaſt had ſaid nothing, leaſt his Teeth ſhould be ſeen too plainly by the Servitors) replyed, he did indeed (moſt Puiſſant Prince) act no otherwiſe, then as if he had been inſpired by an Oracle; in truth I was afraid all would not be well when that rumour and murmuring noiſe was heard among the Commons. That verily put me alſo to a ſtand, ſaid the Fox, and I was a little troubled till I heard what the matter was; then I knew I was able to put an end to that murmuring. I am glad all things are ſo well, ſaid the King; it will be our parts now to endeavour to keep them ſo. Therefore to you my Lord Pitwood, I now ſpeak: I hope the Honour we have conferred on you and yours here preſent, will never be forgot; for whoſoever is unmindful of benefits, deviates from all honeſty. Our Subjects are numerous, and all of them (as I well noted) did not conſent to your Approbation, though the maſer part (which is ſufficient) indeed did very chearfully. For this cauſe I would have you to conſider you have Enemies as well as Friends, which will be apt to eſpy all advantages, and ready to exclaim againſt you ſo ſoon as they can find any occaſion,

Gluttons will always eat greedily, although ſitting at the Table of a King.

It is honourable in a King to give good Counſel, but it is baſeneſs in a Subject not to regard the ſame; as this Chapter, and the whole Hiſtory following, clearly prove;

occasion, which will by nothing be sooner given, than by pride and licentious living; of which (though I thus speak) I hope I shall have no occasion to be jealous.

for although here the Wolf for himself, by his silence, and the Fox for him, by a long and lying discourse, solemnly promise to observe all the King commanded, or advised to, yet they neither of them ever intended to perform the same.

Then stood up Reynard the Fox, and said, Most dread Sovereign I dare engage my honour, yea life and all, for the good deportment of my Uncle. For the reason why he heretofore was reputed churlish, and licentious, was because of his penury; this now being totally removed by the office your Majesty hath given him, can be no cause of stirring up in him such vices as were (in times past) condemnable in him: because had he now no other estate to live on than his profits, (not to mention other Perquisites) he must needs have so ample a competency, as that he shall need to desire no more. Yea I say, his riches will be so great, as he will be in a capacity rather to give to others, than to need any thing more than what his office daily supplies him with. Besides, I consider him by my self; it is well known to your Majesty, how I was continually complained of by my Enemies, accused of Murder, Theft and Rapine (as my former troubles do well witness) untill your Majesty was pleased to advance me, and confer on me so ample Treasures, as I now possess. Since this time, not one Beast of all your Majesty's Subjects hath so much as opened his mouth against me. It is true, Reynard, said the King, I have never heard any complaint of thee since the time I first advanced thee; therefore I repent me not of what I have done. Then the Fox bowing himself, said, I humbly thank your Majesty for all your Favours bestowed on me, as also for this great Bounty, for my sake, conferred on my Uncle; of whom (doubtless) from this day forward, you will never more hear complaint. With this speech of Reynards the King was greatly satisfied; and therefore said, Cousin Reynard I believe no less than you have told me. I am glad to see you affectionate and loving to your Uncle; I doubt not but he will repay your kindness with like love and affection, and in the Execution of his office be always mindful of saving our Honour. Yes, said Reynard, that will be his only aim; for

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he hath already promised to be always more mindful of your Majesties interest than of his own. These, and many more such speeches passed between the King and the Fox, until it was somewhat late in the Evening; then the King finishing his Discourse, told all his Guests it was late, he would detain them no longer. So they departed; only Reynard the Fox was ordered to come to Court early in the morning; for the King told him he would speak with him alone about earnest Business.

CHAP. VII.

Of the Discourse the King had with *Reynard* the Fox, touching the Advancement of Sir *Bruin* the Bear, and *Tibert* the Cat.

THe day no sooner appeared, but Reynard hasted to the Court; where his Majesty had expected his coming almost an hour before, for he was troubled about his promise to Bruin and Tibert not yet performed, lest they through discontent should be the Authors of Commotion. Therefore, so soon as Reynard came in, he said, it is well you are come, Cousin, I was even now, and indeed last night, thinking of my promise to Bruin, and also to Tibert, how remiss I have been in performing my word, doubting whether by that omission they two being discontented (as I suppose they are) might not raise some Commotion and stir among our Friends and Subjects. Hereupon, the Fox (now finding all things to succeed according to his own desire) after obeysance made, thus speaks:

Sure, mighty Prince, you have consulted with the Oracle, otherwise you could not have conjectured so truly. For Bruin the Bear, and Tibert the Cat were highly offended with my Uncle two days before the Assemby of the Commons, and came with full intent to his house to have done him some mischief; but by good fortune, I being present, discerned their design by their looks, and therefore presently told them of your Majesty's royal intent to promote and ho-

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nour them, the very next day after the Assembly of the Commons was over, which for the present pacified them very well, but since the time appointed is past and gone, without any effect, answerable to what I promised, how they now stand affected. I cannot tell. Well then, said the King, I understand by your words, that it is high time to do somewhat in this business; but I pray thee Cousin Reynard, tell me which way I may best honour them, with least damage to my self, or injury to you. The Fox hearing this, after low Obeysance made, said; Dread Sovereign, if my poor judgment may be received in this case, I humbly request your Majesty to consider the nature and temper of them both, and accordingly to honour them. To this the King replied, you speak well Cousin, but since you best know their natures, I leave it to you to propose, which way they may best be honoured?

It is a point of great discretion to give honour, or choose Officers according to their Qualifications, and on active Spirits to counteractive employments; but when any Subject shall perswade his Sovereign so to do, only for the accomplishing his own base ends, that is of evil consequence, and perilous to the Prince himself.

Mighty Sir, said the Fox, if it be your pleasure that I shall speak my mind, I briefly say thus. Bruin is a lumpy, and an heavy slow beast, one that loves to live in idleness, therefore an empty title of honour without imployment is fittest for him. But Tibert is nimble, active, subtile and politick, therefore some stirring imployment that is profitable (for he is naturally covetous) will please him better than all the honour in the world. The King hearing this, was well contented; and further said, what Title shall I give Bruin? and what Employment shall I find out for Tibert? My Lord, Bruin will hold himself highly contented with such a Title as Isegrim my Uncle hath that is, if your Majesty will create him Earl of the Forests, although he have not one foot of Land there, it will be as much as needs to be. And for Tibert, if your Highness will but command my Uncle to make him his Clerk (for a Clerk he must have) that will be both honour and profit also the last of which is his chief and only aim. Then the King said, this you speak of may well be done; yet I doubt there will be an inconvenience in making Bruin Earl of the Forests, because the Forests are mine only, and in case any Insurrection be, the Rebels

may



may make Bruin their head, by virtue of this Title, and ſo my Royal dignity be in danger. My Lord, ſaid the Fox (bowing himſelf) how can your Majeſty think thus? For whilſt I continue in your Highneſſe's grace and favour,

Bruin

Bruin must needs be under me, especially if this Honour be conferred on him, as for my sake, that will make him always to act by my advice, and never to do any thing without it. Besides, if he would be a Traytor, he is of himself so timerous and fearful, that he must needs betray himself. Therefore, for him I say thus much, If ever he be found false to your Majesty, take off my Head. Well Cousin, said the King, since you have so good opinion of him, I will for your sake do him this Honour; and that I may the more firmly bind him to serve you, I will at the same time make you Lord chief Baily of all my Dominions; only at the receiving these Honours, you shall both of you solemnly swear fealty to me and my Heirs for ever. At the hearing of this, the Fox (infinitely joyful no doubt, for by these means he knew all power would be in his hand) bowed himself to the King, and said; Noble Sir, I am not only willing to serve your Majesty in such an high and honourable office, but should hold my self well contented to be accounted your Highnesse's Vassal, since I see so great nobleness, as I am not able to express. Well Reynard, said the King, I am willing to honour you thus, because I repose in you so great trust, as I never in all my life did, in any of my Subjects; For indeed I am so sufficiently perswaded of your Loyalty, as I suppose I have no cause to doubt any Misdemeanor in you. Oh my Lord, said the Fox, should I in the least act any thing repugnant to your Majesty's honour, I should be worse than any Beast, and the most wretched of all Creatures. Then the King said; Cousin, you have said enough, I believe you. Therefore call in Sir Tibert, and I will order him to summon the Nobles to appear all here on the morrow morning betimes. In the mean while you may go home to your own Castle, until the time of their intended meeting be fully come.

The Fox hearing this, bowed his head, and departed full of joy and content; but forgot not to send in Tibert to the King. Now when Tibert came before the King, the King said, Sir Tibert, our will is, that you summon the Lords to

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be all here too morrow morning, for I purpose to confer Honours on Sir Bruin and your self, of which I would have them to be witnesses; also for the Lord Reynard's good services, I intend, and fully resolve to make him chief Bayly of all my Dominions, therefore hast you, and dispatch your Business.

CHAP. VIII.

How the Fox, Bear, and Cat, were honoured by the King; and how the Bear and Fox swore fealty.

THe Cat above measure joyed at this news, runs first to Bruin the Bear, and acquaints him with the whole story; then he hastens to all the other Lords, and last of all comes to Malepardus, where Reynard's Castle stood, into which he enters, and not finding Reynard at home (for he was gone forth to hunt) he saluted Reynard's Wife and Children, (who were most of them of good stature) in these words: Reverend Madam and you noble Lords I am hither sent by the Kings Royal Majesty, to summon my Lord Reynard to the Court early on the morrow. Having said this, away he runs to his own dwelling, and there remained until morning. Now, the morrow being come, and the Lords all present in the Court, the King sitting down among them, began his discourse thus.

My Lords and Friends, We have done much toward the setling of our affairs in the choice and confirmation of the Lord Pitwood in his office of chief Prelate; yet there seems something more of necessity to be done; for Sir Bruin hath been long our leige-man, and although of so high descent, as you all know we have none nearer us by birth, except our own family in all our Dominions yet we have never unto this day conferred on him any singular specimen of honour. Therefore our will and pleasure now is, before you all, to create him Earl of the Forests, thereby to oblige him nearer to us, and to intimate to all our Subjects in general, that

we will honour as many, as either by birth, or desert, ought to be honoured. Also our will is, that Sir Tibert, for his diligence in executing our commands, be admitted by my Lord Pitwood here present, as his chief Clerk. We know he is able and capable of such an Imployment; therefore my Lord (directing his speech to the Wolf) I pray accept of him as your Secretary, by me recommended. To this the Wolf replied, your Majesty may command much more than this: I do here in this noble presence accept of Sir Tibert as my chief Secretary, and none other. Then the King further said, We have great reason to honour those especially, who (if at any time seeing us remiss) admonish us of our duty, therefore I am now fully resolved to confer greater honour on our Cousin Reynard, the Preserver of our Royal Crown and Dignity. Having said this, he immediately before them all called to him the Lord Reynard, and when he had kissed him, gave him a staffe headed with Gold; saying, this is our badg of honour, at all times to be born before you, by your Cousin Grimbard; or in case he be not well at any time, then by your Cousin Beclas the Ape, so soon as he returns from Rome, whence he is hourly expected; and with this Staffe we give you power over all our Subjects, and therefore constitute you Lord chief Baily of all our Dominions. After the King had spoke this, the Fox bowing himself, said, Dread Soveraign, I shall never be able sufficiently by words to express my thankfulness, being wholly overcome by your Majesties immense Bounty; but my Actions shall testifie my gratitude, to all your Subjects. Then the King, nodding his head and smiling, said nothing to him, but called Sir Bruin, and said; Sir Bruin, I create you Earl of the Forests, and if hereafter I have so ample a testimony of your Loyalty, as I at this time perswade my self I shall, I will confirm the same honour on your Heirs and Successors for ever. The Bear hearing this, made obeysance and humbly thanked his Majesty. To this the King said, he had reason likewise to be thankful to his Cousin Reynard, who had requested this great honour for him. Then the Bear turned himself,

himself, and gave the Fox great thanks also. This being done, the King said, now there remains nothing, but that you two swear Fealty to us, our Heirs and Successors. Then the Wolf (whose office it was to swear them) gave them the Book, on which he bade each of them to lay his right hand, and then say after him: So the Fox and Bear after him repeated these words: We swear to be true and faithful to our Soveraign Lord the King, and directly or indirectly to practice nothing against his Royal Crown and Dignity, &c. Having said this, he bad them kiss the Book, so they did, and then rose up; for they took their Oath kneeling.

Oathes taken by wicked Persons, are no longer binding to them, than till they can see an opportunity of falcifying the same, to promote their ambitious intents, as by the following story is evident in the Fox, and Bear, now sworn before the King.

This being done, the King dismissed all his Nobles; and to the Fox particularly said; Now, my Lord Reynard, see that you deal justly to all my Subjects, in deciding their causes impartially; for I am willing you should your self redress the Grievances of my meaner Subjects; and what difference shall arise among you my Nobles and Friends, of that I my self will have the Decision. Then the Fox bowed himself, and said, All your Majesties commands shall be exactly obeyed by me your most obliged.

Then Grimbard the Brock, receiving the Staff of Reynard, bore it before him; and Ratwood the Wolf, Bruin the Bear, and all the other Nobles followed after, and attended the Fox to his own Castle gates, where they took their leaves of him, and returned every one to his own home.

CHAP. IX.

How *Pitwood* the Wolf went to *Malepardus* to commune and advise with his Cousin *Reynard* about his own Affairs, and what was the Result of that Discourse.

After this, some-time being elapsed, Pitwood the Wolf, thought it necessary to go to his Cousin Reynard. Therefore coming to Malepardus, he knocked, and one of Reynard's Sons coming to the gate, opened it, and bowed himself to the Lord Pitwood, saying, My Father is within; if your Lordship would speak with him I will go in and call him. I pray thee do, said the Wolf for I come for that end. So Reynards Son told his Father, the Lord chief Prelate was come to speak with him. He hearing this, hasted to the Gate, and there saluted his Uncle, in these words, Reverend Uncle I joy to see you, I think it not expedient to invite your Lordship to come into my House, therefore we (going to yonder hedg) shall have a very convenient place to sit down and talk together; for I know we shall there have more privacy, then we can have within doors. Honourable Cousin said the Wolf, I am always obliged to you for your readiness to serve me, but especially for your providence and forecast; your self being so circumspect and wise, as to be able to foresee convenience, or inconvenience, as oft as need is. By this time they were come to the Hedg, where the Fox sitting down first, invited his Uncle to set by him. When he was sat, the Fox began thus; Uncle Pitwood, I suppose by this time you perceive the profits of your office? Yes Cousin, said the Wolf, I have indeed reaped no small benefit by my office, the Perquisites are large, and I have received great presents, and those of so great variety, as I never in all my life saw the like; besides, there quantity is so great, as my own House will hardly contain them. I am glad to hear it, said the Fox; but how fares it with all my Cousins, your Children and Nephews, do they also thrive in

their

their offices? Yes, very well, said the Lord Pitwood, they tell me they have enough, and I believe them, for three or four of them have lately taken Surfeits with eating (poor hearts.) O Uncle said the Fox, that's nothing, perhaps their Stomachs were weak; but they will be well enough in a little time. Yes, yes, Cousin, said the Wolf, I doubt it not. But good Cousin, let me have your advice in some few things. Suppose I have more than I can tell where to bestow, what shall I do with the remainder? shall I give it to the King, or build my House larger to receive all that comes, and reserve the same for a time of need? What is your advice, shall I give to the King, and so ingratiate my self farther with him? Not so, said the Fox, for the King seeing your great affluence of Riches, will begin to cut short your other Revenues; supposing you will in time grow too mighty for him. That's very considerable, quoth the Wolf; what then? I perceive you allow of enlarging my house? No, said the Fox, if you will take my advice, I see no security in that, but would rather perswade you to inrich your Friends. How say you! what Friends can I have in this high estate, which every one envies? To this the Fox answers Uncle, did you ever know any one envied for giving? It is not your high estate that causeth envy, but the hatred of others against you, is because they can reap no benefit by your greatness: Therefore, you cannot do better for your self, nor better secure your own Grandeur than by pleasuring some few of the Nobles with a small part of your wealth, now and then. Well Cousin, said the Wolf, I will do so, but you must advise me to whom; for I know not what to do in such a case as this? What to do, said the Fox, why know you not that the Earl of the Forests, although mighty to see to, is but poor; and though he as yet carry fare to you and me, yet if he partake not of part of our Wealth he may in time prove a bitter enemy: Likewise Sir Firrape the Libbard, and Sly-look the Panther, are esteemed great, yet we well know that some small pittance from us, will be so thankfully accepted by them, as we shall ever after oblige them firmly to us.

This Chapter shews that Liberality is one main upholder of Greatness, & that without it, Envy and Malice may so far prevail as to be able to shake, if not totally to ruin those that are in great honour and yet very covetous: Besides, gifts blind the eyes and alter the understanding so, as men are easily induced to approve of that now, which they the day before did contemn as monstrous.

us. And Uncle, it is a very necessary point to be thought on; for if we be diligent in obliging Friends so mighty, what is it we may not do? Yet you must be sure to be mindful of your own Servitors that they may not repine at your wealth; especially, look into your Secretaries profits; if they be not large enough to content him, you must add more, till he holds himself well contented. For he who would retain the greatness he at present hath, must not forget to reward his Attendants so, as they never utter one word in his discommendation. Cousin, said the Wolf, I well understand you, and purpose to put in practice what you have advised. So for that time they parted, and the Wolf distributed his Goods among the before-recited Nobles, as freely and as liberally as ever Wolf did. And the For according to the advice he had given himself, did also largely reward those of whom he thought he stood in greatest need, or in time to come might have occasion to use, and in his bounty exceeded the Wolf by far.

CHAP. X.

How the Fox behaved himself in his Office, and of two Causes by him decided.

The For (who knew it was no less wisdom to keep what is gotten, than to get the same) notwithstanding his other affairs, (which now by reason of his Office were many) waits and tends upon the King as formerly, always making great Protestations of his Loyalty, touching which the King doubted not at all, the For had so craftily insinuated himself into his affections. All being well on this side, we now come to speak of his Decision of Causes and manifest differences among the meaner sort of Subjects: And of these at this time we mention only two.

The first is of a Bever and an Otter, who being at strife about Fish they had taken, make their complaints before the Lord Reynard; the Otter first thus begins; My Lord, this



this Bever hath done me great wrong; for he and I were Partners for many years, and all the Fiſh we got, we ſtored up in common, and both his and my Family were fed thereof allways in our need, eſpecially in Winter; and it happened, that this preſent Winter I expecting the ſame privi-

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ledg I formerly had, came for Fish in my need, but he denyed me my right; and having all the Fish in his possession, gave me not so much as one small Fish. Therefore I am in necessity, having spent all I had to buy food for my self and family. The Fox hearing this, asked the Bever, if it were true? No, said he, my Lord, this lying beast accuses me falsly; for he and I were never Partners, except that we have sometimes gone a fishing together, and afterwards made merry with our Booty. Besides he hath not the right art of Fishing, for he makes such a noise, when he is in the water, that all Fishes that are near, fly with might and main; but I leap not into the water, before I espy my prey ready and within my reach. By my discreet fishing I catch more than two for his one; therefore my Lord, it is not to be imagined that I would tye my self to so great an inconvenience as to labour for another. Then the Fox asked the Bever, if he had any store of Fish by him? and he said, No my Lord. When he heard this, he asked the Otter what he said to that; had the Bever any Fish by him, when you and he came last from home? Yes, said the Otter: Believe him not, I beseech your Honour, quoth the Bever. So the Fox straightway commanded two Officers to go to the Bevers house to search for Fish. When they came there, they saw two Rooms one above another, full stored with dried Fish. The Fish being so much, as they could not bare it away at several times going; they carried none of it with them, but one stayed to guard the Fish, and the other hastned to the Court of Judicature saying, My Lord, there is such store of Fish, as I never saw before; for in the Bevers house are two Rooms full, &c. When the Lord Reynard heard this, he proceeded to give sentence thus; Since the Bever hath falsly belyed his Neighbour, and denyed him his just due, he shall lose all his Fish. Then touching the Otter he said, since he had been wronged, he should have one half of the Fish to make him reparation. The Otter departed well enough contented with this Sentence; but the Bever was mad at heart. This Sentence was as exactly executed as

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pronounced, and the Fox had as surely had half the Fish for his pains.

After this there happened a great difference betwæn certain Daws and Rooks. The occasion take as follows. In an high Tower, appertaining to a Country-Town, where men formerly had dwelt, a company of Dawes took up their habitations, and had dwelt there so long as until they became very numerous. Right against this Tower were planted Elmes, which in length of time were grown up to a very great height; in the upper part of which, at first a few, and afterwards many Rooks built Nests and setled their. These two kinds kinds being so near Neighbours, at length grew into acquaintance, and familiarity one with another: the Rooks pretending great kindness to the Dawes, were by them admitted into their Houses, and sometimes feasted; the Rooks likewise invited the Daws to them, feasting them after the same manner. This reciprocal entertainment continued a long time, until a scarce and hard Season came. Then the Rooks watching their opportunity, when the old Dawes were gone forth, for it was Spring-time, and they had young ones) being greatly pressed with hunger, agreed all together to rob the Dawes, and fearing the noise of the young Dawes would bewray their intentions, it was resolved among them, first to kill all they found in every house. With this resolution they all at once flew out, and one or two of them went into every house and slew all the young ones, some of which in carrying out they let fall, by reason of their haste; but as many as they could hold, they carryed into their own Nests, and returned immediately and took away all the Provisions they could find (which was not much by reason of the scarcity of the time) and carryed that home also. Then with speed some of them flew out to purvey, as at other times, but (by reason of their own hunger) made haste home. By this time were the old Dawes also returned with provision for their Young, whom they never more saw alive. Therefore smelling the deceit, some of the boldest of them flew over to their Neighbours, and coming unawares

upon them, could easily see the torn limbs of their children. Others of them flying again downwards, espied under the Tower-walls several of their younglings lying dead. At this, they were all so much enraged, as had not some of the wisest among them dissuaded them from it, they would have suddenly in an hostile manner assailed their Enemies. Therefore they took up this resolution, namely, that they would complain of their Grievances to the King of Beasts. But after it was told them that the King himself would not meddle in their matters, because he had deputed his Cousin Reynard, they all fly to him, and lighting on a Tree nigh to the place of Judicature, they called aloud, Justice, Noble Lord Reynard. Reynard being informed of this Cry, immediately came forth, and sitting down, said, What is the matter? They said, my Lord avenge our cause of those perfidious Rooks, who have slain our Children and robbed us of all our substance. To this, the For replied, how shall I know your complaint is just, unless I also hear those that be accused? At this, they all flew away home, and being there, called to their Neighbours the Rooks, telling them they must appear before the Lord Reynard. To this the Rooks answered, that was no lawful Summons; nevertheless, they would not stick to appear, being sufficiently able to clear themselves. So some of the oldest of the Rooks flew first to the Court of Judicature; the Daws seeing that, made haste after them. When both had lighted on Trees as near the Fores seat, as they could, the Dawes as before, exhibit their complaint. To this the Rooks answer, My Lord, these Dawes here present, belye us shrewdly; for we as well as they were gone forth to purvey for Necessaries; but their young ones intheir absence crawled out, and fell down, and so died; some of which are to be seen at this present, broken to pieces against the Stones; and this is the cause why these Varlets accuse us, who are as innocent as your Lordship. To this the For answered, it is strange that all the young ones in every house should at one time be alike disposed to crawl out; I suspect the truth of this matter, and cannot ac-

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quit you, unleſs you can by ſubſtantial Witneſſes, evidence the truth of your Aſſertion. Then the oldeſt of the Rooks ſaid, My Lord we are able to produce Witneſſes enough, ſome of which ſaw this downfall of the young Dawes. Go to then, ſaid the Fox, produce them. Then haſted one or two of the Rooks, and in a ſhort time produced all the reſt of their fellows, who had an hand in the former Maſſacre of the Dawes. When theſe Witneſſes were come, the Fox commanded them down to be ſworn: Therefore down they came (though unwillingly) and after they were ſworn, and ready to give evidence, he would not hear them, before the other Rooks, who were accuſed, were alſo come down off the Trees, and brought to the Bar. Now ſaid he to the Witneſſes, let us hear what you can ſay. We, my Lord, ſaid one of them, were eye-witneſſes of what hapned to the young Dawes; for they came all to the doors of their houſes, and there looked one upon another, until at length, ſtriving (as it ſeems) to fly (before they were able) they all tumbled down headlong. Now indeed, we ſeeing they were fallen and dead, took up every one of us one of them, and carried them home, becauſe we knew they were dead. When theſe our Kinſfolks, who are now arraigned, came home, we told them the whole ſtory; they allowed of what we had done; becauſe that was free booty, yet to avoid the ill-will of our Neighbours, they would not ſuffer us to fetch up any more of their dead bodies. Now it is true, that ſome of the Dawes flying over to us, did ſee many of us the Witneſſes eating of the dead bodies of their Children, and therefore without one word ſpeaking, they falſly affirmed to your Lordſhip that we had ſlain their children and robbed them. So then ſaid the Fox, you deny you have robbed them, yet confeſs you eat the dead Younglings. Now where are ſtoln goods to be found, but in the poſſeſſion of the Thief? Therefore by your own evidence you have condemned your ſelves, and I can do no leſs in equity than to condemn you all to be ſtrangled, as a juſt recompence for your heinous Maſſacre. When he had ſaid this, the Fox's Attendants ſtrangled every one of them

It is dangerous for guilty perſons to come within the Judg his power.



Crafty men willingly forgo, and readily give away what is not

in a moments time; but their dead bodies were delivered by Tale into the Lord Reynard's Kitchin. The Dawes seeing what was done, rejoiced greatly, and bowing themselves to the For, said, Honoured Sir, we are infinitely bound

bound to your Lordship, for that you have so justly avenged our cause on the Murtherers of our Children. The Fox answered, I could do no less; for I plainly perceived they were guilty, both of Murther and Theft; therefore I give you all the Houses and Goods remaining of these Miscreants, (although indeed my own Perquisites) that you may ever after live secure from such treacherous Neighbours.

their own, nor ever like to be in their possession, as here is evident, by the Fox, who gives the Dawes the Rookes Nests, because he knew not how to come at them.

Now when the Dawes had humbly thanked the Fox, they took their leaves and departed; and from that day forward would never after have any Fellowship with Rooks.

CHAP. XI.

How the Fox liberally bestowed what he got, among the Nobles, and of the Communication that was held by them at a general Meeting.

The Fox in this manner handling all matters so, as which way soever the scale turned, profit should redound to him, partly by Bribes taken privily on both sides, and partly by the Forfeitures of the condemned, had got together an infinite mass of Wealth. Then knowing his own great Riches, he aspired to advance his estate yet higher, yea even above his Master, that had honoured him so highly, and had given him power sufficient to endanger his own Crown and Dignity. Therefore, to proceed surely (as he thought) to his before-imagined Grandeur, he shews himself much more liberal than formerly, enriching all the Nobles, and their Followers and Retinue, among which he most of all gratified Sir Tibert the Cat, giving to him very largely. By this liberal giving, he was the only eminent person in the land (as they who were so greatly benefited by him judged) that was endued with Wisdom, Policy, and great Riches. To Ysengrim the Wolf (though he had wealth enough of his own) he also forgat not to send several Presents, not once or twice, but oftner. He holding this course with the Nobles,

When aspiring Subjects abound in Wealth, the Kings royal person and power is lyable to great danger.

Nobles, was not in the mean while unmindful of waiting often on the King, and with smooth words, and a lying pretence of honesty, to lull him asleep even to a Lethargy of security; for the King being old, and hearing no complaints, was well pleased, that he had constituted a Substitute who was able and willing to free and discharge him of all trouble. Thus the Fox, concealing his intent, seemingly behaved himself most uprightly, and indeed he was so circumspect as he would never divulge his mind, until he saw a manifest occasion offer it self very plainly. Some time being passed, the Nobles were all met together at the Lord Pitwood's house, to which Meeting the Fox came not, but attended on the King, whether necessitated thereunto, or purposely, is not well known. At this meeting, the Fox's great worth was highly magnified, and Pitwood himself extolled him to the skies, adding withal, that he was fit to rule a Kingdom. These words being minded by those who judged all he said to be true, spurred them on to speak disloyally of their Soveraign. Therefore Bruin the Bear broke his mind thus. He is indeed a most worthy person, and is more mindful to recompence and pleasure his Friends, than the King himself; for what gives he to any of us? If we bring him Presents, he for the present only thanks us, and afterward never more thinks of us, or our Present; but the Lord Reynard expects no gifts from us, and yet is never weary of conferring Benefits on us. To this Bittelas the Ape assented (for he was newly come from Rome) and said, Ye Nephew the Lord Reynard is not only wise, but courteous, affable, and exceeding mindful of Benefits; yea, and where he neither hath, nor can expect to have reaped any commodity, there also his benevolence is largely extended. It is true indeed, said Firrapel the Libbard; and his near Kinsman, Sly-look the Panther owned as much. At length one among them said, if a vacancy should happen, shall we not do well to elect Reynard for our lawful King? Yes, said another, we may do well in so doing; but it is not time to talk of such matters as yet. No, no, said Pitwood the Wolf, we

Also the Princes security is the disloyal Subjects advantage; and whensoever any man in power is magnified (by other potent men) above his Master, and the King his Master evil spoken of, actual Treason is ready to be produced, as this Chapter clearly shews.

we shall endanger our Heads by such a discourse (as this) if it should happen to come to the Kings ear. Besides, for us to imagine such a thing, before we consult with the Lord Reynard thereabout, to know whether he will accept of our good endeavours, and stand by us in it, and assist us with his wealth and friends, I judg it a very great imprudence, if not a rash and hazardous folly.

To these words of his, they all assented, and for that time spake no more thereabout.

CHAP. XII.

How *Bitelas* the Ape informed *Reynard* of all that passed at the Meeting of the Lords.

ON the morrow early, Bitelas the Ape journeyed to his Nephew Reynard's Castle, and when he was let in he spake to the Fox in this manner:

Honoured Nephew, I hear your commendations so highly commemorated, as I am above measure joyed thereat. The Nobles are all at your devotion, there is not one of them, but he is ready to hazard Life and Fortune for your further advancement: You know my meaning Nephew, do you not? Yes Uncle, said the Fox, I know it well enough; for I can step but one step higher, and I think it not time as yet to begin that Ascent. No no, said the Ape, you mistake me Nephew, if you think I mention this to engage your Lordship into any rash attempt but rather that you knowing your Friends, may the better understand how to use them, when occasion is. You speak very well Uncle, said the Fox. Will you do one thing for me? Yes, said the Ape, that I will Cousin if possible. Then said the Fox, go to every of the Lords apart, and sound them, to see how they stand affected; and bring me an exact account.

So the Ape with all diligence sounded them, and found not one dissenting, but largely promising to hazard all to

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invest the Lord Reynard with Regal Power. Only he perceived that the Bear scrupled his Oath to the King; because he said If he were but absolved there-from, he would be none of the backwardest to promote this design. All this he related to Reynard three days after. Then Reynard said, smiling, Uncle you have done me a great kindness, I will repay it ere long. As for Bruin's doubt, I can easily remove it; for I am sure the Lord Pitwood will absolve both him and my self from that Oath extorted from us by the King, so soon as time shall serve for effecting this business: Yet we must not only relie on the Favour of the Lords, but by the best means we can, engage the Commons also. It is true Nephew, said the Ape; but how that will be done I cannot tell; for if Soldiers should be listed, that would never be done so secretly, but it would be blazed abroad, and so come easily to the King's ear. No Uncle, said the Fox, that is not the way. We must proceed after another manner than visibly to raise any Soldiers: Each Lord, must by promise and reward engage as many of the Commons as he can, pretending a private Quarrel, in which he would have their assistance, and therefore injoyn them to be ready armed at any time, when he shall call.

As in all Treasons, some one principal person is employed by the Grand Projector, to sound the intentions of all the Conspirators, so here the Ape is imployed by the *Fox* to fathom the Affections and Resolutions of all the other Confederate-Traytors. This shews great craft in the Projector; for if any one had dissented he then had a fair occasion to accuse all the other, and so clear himself.

Bilelas the Ape, admiring his Nephews Wisdom, said, This is the direct way to raise an Army invisibly. To this the Fox said, if we intend to effect our business throughly, we must not visibly raise Soldiers until the hour appointed be fully come; then how squares will go we shall soon know; and if our first Exploit prosper, all the other will succeed accordingly, and we shall need the fewer Soldiers. Therefore the stress of all lies in managing the business well at first: If we miscarry at first, our Design will scarcely be effected; nay, it is well if our own Ruin fall not in as an Appendix. The Ape hearing this, said, You do well Cousin to premise the worst; this seems to me a sure presage of the future Event, that it

it will be exceeding prosperous. Well Uncle, said the Fox, if it prosper, and I obtain my desired end, I will honour and reward you above all others.

Thus did the Fox disloyally intend the ruin of his Sovereign, his greatest friend, to whom he had solemnly sworn fealty; but what success he had, shall hereafter be shewed.

CHAP. XII.

Of the Discourse between the Fox and the Wolf, and of another Meeting of the Lords, and what was agreed on among them.

THe Fox, now filled with hopes of obtaining the height of all power, resolved to let pass no opportunity of promoting his design; therefore, the first leisure-time he had, he bestowed in Conference with the Wolf. Who not only promised his Assistance, but also to absolve him, and the Bear from their Oath of fidelity. Telling the Fox, that all the Lords he was sure were like minded with him. If so, said the Fox, it were necessary, loving Uncle, to summon the Lords as privately as may be. That is done already, said the Wolf, and they will be all here by and by; but I willed the Messenger not to summon you, because I intended so soon as they were all sat down, to dispatch an Herauld presently to you. This course I thought would be best, for who soever should at that time have been with you, they would have judged, that the King was here, and so not have offered their service to come and attend you hither, because of the haste all know you are wont to make when his Majesty sends.

By this time several of the Lords were come in, most of them entring through the back-gate, for fear of being suspected. Now as every one came in, he first saluted the Fox with great Reverence, then the chief Prelate Isegrim, lately stiled Pitwood. When all were come, & each sate down orderly in his wonted place, Pitwood the Wolf stood up,

and bowing himself a little, said, My Lords, here is now present the Noble and Puissant Lord Reynard, of whom Fame hath made such a loud report &c. I have disclosed your intentions to him, and he very well approving thereof, now gives you this meeting. Then the Fox stood up and said, My Lords and loving Friends. I am not ignorant of your affectionate desire to advance me yet one step higher than I at present am. I also am informed that for effecting this, you will hazard Life and Fortune, (for which I give you great thanks, and will not fail to return a proportionable recompence, if ever I attain the wished end) yet I cannot understand, you have to your selves proposed what way to take to bring about your purpose. Then Sir Bruin the Bear, lately made Earl of the Forests, said, Noble Lord Reynard, we are all ready to serve you, and follow the Directions your Lordship shall think good to propose. The Fox hearing this, said, he could propose an expedient course, which being taken, would further the design, and yet not be perceived; but before he did that, he desired to be absolved from the Oath of Fealty, which he and Bruin the Bear swore to the King. The Lord Pitwood hearing this, stood up and said: I here absolve you, Lord Reynard, and you Sir Bruin, of the Oath you have taken, &c. and you are absolved. After this, the Fox bowing himself, began to speak thus. Worthy Friends, it is well known unto us all, that we have need of the Commons; for as no man can work without hands, so we can never accomplish what we intend, without the assistance of many more than we our selves are. Also for procuring their assistance we must not publickly invite, or solicite any, or otherwise here and there, as is usual in such Cases. Therefore there is but one way left us and that is best and will be most secure. The way is this; Let every one of us here present, by promise and reward, oblige as many of the Commons as we can, telling them we require their assistance in a private quarrel, and therefore would have them be ready (but secretly) in Arms, till we do call for them: This

way

way will both conceal our design and our selves, until we think good to disclose our selves and it. The Nobles hearing the Fores proposal, approved thereof; and highly praising his Wisdom, said, They would put in practise what he had so prudently advised to. Then he again stood up and said, Worthy Friends, if you think good to put in practice our advice, we also judg it expedient, that all speed possible be used, because delay may produce danger; and indeed such designs as this should be as soon executed as thought on. Therefore I request you, and as Confederates adjure you to use all diligence this evening, and all day too morrow, to oblige as many as you can, and then to meet here to morrow-night, that we may determine what to do, and appoint the hour, in which we will set about the business, and dispatch it.

Here it appear, that Flattery and Dissimulation are necessary concomitants of Treason: for had not the Fox waited on the King as formerly, his absence had given cause of suspition.

Having said this, the Meeting broke up, and the Lords went forth one by one, as privily as they could.

CHAP. XIV.

Of their last meeting, and how they determined to surprise the King and Court the next night following.

Also Miscreants before they attempt dangerous Designes, forecast how to secure themselves if it happen their intentions be frustrated; as here is evident by the Fox his fortifying, and furnishing his Castle to abide a siege, if need should be.

The next day the Fox went to Court, and tarried with the King until Dinner-time; then with great submission and seeming Loyalty he took his leave of him; who doubting nothing, dismissed the Fox with great chearfulness.

When Reynard came home, he was not idle, but stayed at home all that day, not only to view the Fortifications of his Castle, (for he under pretence of repairing it, had already fortified it strongly) which he liked well, but also to examine his Stores of Provision, observing what was defective, and supplying the same that day, that if need were, he might abide a Siege to the confusion of his Enemies, as he still resolutely hoped. Therefore such Soldiers

as he levied privily, he kept there, with a plentiful allowance of all that was needful.

Qui malum agit lucem fugit. Conspiracies and Treasons can at no time so commodiously be contrived as in the Night; because then Conspirators may meet together unseen, and pass away undiscovered.

Now the Evening being come, so soon as it was quite dark, he goes to the Wolfe's house, where he found all the Nobles just come in before him. He observing that not one was missing, concluded that all were right for his purpose, (as indeed they at that time were) therefore he, full of joy and content, spake to them en this manner. Worthy Friends, I am not a little pleased to see you all so unanimous. To this they all said they would live and die with him. Then he bowing himself, said, If your Resolution be such after you have declared what power you have in readiness, I will disclose my intentions, touching the time and manner of execution. As to our Power, said Sir Firrapel the Libbard, we had a general Meeting in the Forest before we came hither, because we would be rightly informed thereabout; and among us all, except only the Lord Pitwood, who was not with us, we find we are able to raise at an hours warning three thousand Soldiers. Then the Wolf said, and I, my Lord, am assured of four hundred, at as short a warning. Well then, said the For, I perceive your Loyalties, for which I give you thanks; I my self have also Six hundred Soldiers ready when I call for them. These Forces reckoned together, will amount to no less than Four thousand, a power sufficient to carry our Design through all opposition and difficulty. Having said this, he paused a little; and at length stood up again, and said, Worthy Friends, it now remains, that we fully and unanimously agree about the time and manner of executing our Design. Therefore, Noble Sirs, if any of you can devise a better way for effecting what we intend, than I my self have thought upon, I would have him speak first. To this they all replied, Noble Lord Reynard, we all are your Honours Servants, you may command us, we cannot advise you; but whatsoever you shall propose, that we will do to the utmost of our power. let the event be what it will. The For hearing this, said, For this your Loyalty, I will

reward

reward every one of you with such gratuities, as you could never expect from the present King. And, as to the time and manner of execution (since you leave it to me) my judgment is, that the sooner the better; yet because it is necessary that our Friends and Allies, (I mean the Commons by us ingaged) should have timely notice to be ready; I find it is not possible to set about the business sooner than to morrow night. Therefore I would have you, and all your Soldiers to be ready embattelled in the Forest to morrow in the Evening, setting out spies every way to intercept all Passengers, that no Tales may be told: Then will I, when I see the time, give command for you to march. But first, I would have two or three of you, with your Soldiers to go to the Court, and if possible to surprise the same, then by a Messenger to signifie the Surprisal thereof to us, that we may with all our Forces come in immediately to repress all Resistance whatsoever that may be made by any of the King's Sons, or Kinsfolks, if they happen to escape the first comers, and should by that Alarum draw to themselves a multitude of Auxiliaries which may frustrate our intentions. For it is to be understood, that if we do not our business to purpose, we shall never long hold our gettings in peace and quietness; therefore, since I well know, that the King and his Sons be strong and valiant, I think it most expedient for you Sir Firrapel, with your Cousin Slylook, to take with you your own Forces, and such as will voluntarily follow you; and at the time I shall give command to march first (yet secretly) to the Court, and there to demean your selves right valiantly, that you may with the greatest speed, and least noise, surprise the same; above all, be sure you take care that neither the King himself, nor any one of his Children, or Nephews (who I understand are all to sup with the King to morrow Night) escape your hands but be either taken alive, or killed out-right. Having said this, the Libbard and Panther stood up promising to undertake the charge imposed on them, resolving either to effect it throughly, or to die in the attempt. The Fox thank-

Hopes of Reward, and future advancement makes Conspirators bold and adventurous. Besides, all Traytors themselves are very liberal in promising; as appears by the Fox, who promiseth to exceed the King his Master, against whom he conspires, & of whom he contemptuously speaks.

Evil Designes are never throughly executed, without great effusion of blood for the shadow of a generous Nature there, especially if it be of an Ally in blood to the person murthered; as here the Fox

commands, that neither the King, nor any of his Kindred should be spared; his reason he gives before.

ed them, and added, Worthy Friends, we cannot be too circumspect, or wary in this matter; therefore I judg it fit to use one policy more, and it is this. Do you two go to the Court to morrow in the forenoon, and acquaint the King that I am gone a hunting for to recreate my self a little, because I have lately been greatly wearied with my multiplicity of business, and also that the Lord Pitwood is busie in preparing a Present for his Majesty. Then do you enquire of his Sons and Nephews how they do, and he will answer, they will all be here anon: you hearing that, may say, you will come in the Evening, and salute their Lordships. By this means your approach in the Evening will be less suspected, and you design much more easily effected. They hearing this humbly thanked his Lordship for his singular advice, which rendred their work so easie, as they now had no doubt of accomplishing the same. Then the For directing his Speech to the other Lords. said, As for you my Lord Pitwood; I leave to you the leading the Van of the Body of the Army remaining; and to you Sir Brain I commit the Care of the Rear. I pray, my Lords, be careful and circumspect, command your Soldiers to march with silence; so soon as you are marched out of the Forest, you shall see me with my Six hundred Soldiers. Yet I will not joyn with you, but marsh on one side, at a convenient distance, that I may the better observe what is to be done; and also, the more commodiously receive intelligence and give instructions, or come in to rescue if need be. My Intelligencers or Scouts shall be Sir Tiberts Lineage, over whom he himself shall be Captain. This is my Determination, therefore doubt him not. And although in this my charge, I have particularly spoken unto four of you only, yet (as your friend) I request, and (as your Chieftain) command you all to be prudent and very wary in your proceedings, let each of you advise; and encourage his own Soldiers, and by your obedience to your Superiors, teach them to be obedient to your self; for thus doing, you your selves shall reap the profit, and I be the more engaged to serve you in time to come. Upon this,



this, they all again promised to hazard Life and Fortune, and to be every one (according as he should be placed that day) obedient to his Superior. After this, they depart each to his home, for by this time it was very late.

CHAP.

CHAP. XV.

How Sir *Firrapel* the Libbard, and his Cousin *Sly-look*, revealed the whole Treason to the King, &c.

ON the morrow when Sir Firrapel and his Cousin met, they both looked less cheerful then they were wont; and therefore asked each other the cause of his sadness. The Libbard first spake thus:

Relenting thoughts in Conspirators, prove dangerous to grand Projectors.

Cousin, I am troubled with the thoughts of what we are going about; for I consider we have no reason to be Traytors to our Soveraign, because he never in the least degraded or injured us, but always admitted us as Friends and Companions; and indeed he is a Prince deserving the love and not the hatred of all his Subjects, much more of his Lords, and in an especial manner of the Lord Reynard, and his Uncle Isegrim, since called Pitwood. But now engaged as we are, we are in such a streight as what to do I cannot tell.

Then the Panther said, Truly Cousin, I know not what to think, I have been so perplexed all this night with the consideration of my Disloyalty, as I am now even at my Wits end. If we bewray the Plot to the King, he is so well conceited of the Lord Reynard, as he will not believe us; and so we are in danger of death for falsly accusing him, who is the falsest of all living, and will not stick to ruin all us, so he may but escape himself. Besides, his language is so smooth, and he is so crafty and subtile as it will be impossible to prove a tittle of all we can say against him. No, no, said the Libbard, if we having declared all to the King, request him to detain us in his Court but for one day, until our Loyalty be proved or disproved, and in the mean while not be known we have bewrayed the Plot; we when the time appointed is come, may look over the Battlements and call to Sir Tibert (who will be sure to lie very near, that he may give intelligence) telling him the King and his Sons are dead,

dead, the Lord Reynard may now come in securely; then we shall quickly see our selves out of danger, and the Authors of our trouble brought to condign punishment. Cousin, said the Panther, I like your counsel well; but if we be detained in Court all day, and come not with our Soldiers in the Evening to the place of Rendezvouz, Reynard will presently smell the matter, and let fall his present design, but immediately run to Court and accuse us. 'Tis true indeed, said the Libbard, we are in a bad case if we reveal the Treason, and it is very hazardous if we reveal it not, and any other do; our danger will be the greater. Therefore, since we are so straitned, it is better for us of these two Evils to chuse the least, and speedily to reveal the Treason, let the event be what it will.

To this the Panther consented; and so they went together to Court. When they were come before the King, and had bowed themselves, they thought to have spoke, but neither of them could for shame and grief. The King noting their dejected Countenances, said, Friends, why are you so sad? O Sir, said the Libbard, the consideration of your Majesties clemency, and our own unworthiness, is the cause of our present grief. Why (said the King) speak you thus? Because Sir, said the Panther, we have been so unworthy, and indeed so false to your Majesty, as to know of a Treason (intended against your Royal Person, Crown and Dignity) for at least four days, and not to reveal it; and that which most of all perplexeth us, is, that we gave our consents, and promised to aid and assist the Traytors against your Majesty.

This Chapter shews, that some men are easily wrought upon to consent to Treason, yet will very unwillingly put the same in practice; but rather, to save themselves, reveal the whole Conspiracy, as here the Libbard and Panther did.

Here the King interrupted him, saying, Treason! and would have spoke more, but for rage could not at present. In a little time his wrath abating, he sternly said, Who be the Traytors? At which words the Panther and Libbard trembled exceedingly, and said, We be those Traytors who disloyally conspired your Majesties Death. The King hearing this, knew not what to say, but supposed they were mad. Therefore he again asked them; What, do you accuse your

selves, are you Traytors? Yes, we are, said they. Then the King said would you have pardon? Yes, said they, if your Majesty so please. Pleased I am to pardon all that of themselves make complaint first; therefore I here pardon you, how foul soever the Treason be, provided you will reveal the whole Conspiracy, and Conspirators. At these words they took courage, and (after Obeysance) said We will not only reveal the whole Treason exactly, from point to point as it is; but will also (if your Majesty will act by our advice) deliver all, or most of the Traytors into your own hands, to deal with them as your Highness shall think fit. Well, said the King, first let me know the Conspiracy, and Conspirators.

So they in all points declared the whole Treason and Traytors, from beginning to end, as you have heard. Then the King said, How say you, all the Lords! Yes, Sir, said they from the highest to the lowest, there was not one that consented not. It is true indeed Sir, Tibert was not at our Meetings, but he must needs be privy to it; for he is made Captain of the Scouts that are to go before the Army; and undoubtedly he may be seen in or about the Court this night, if a diligent search be made for him. The King hearing this, was above measure troubled, and would often have sent for Reynard, had not his eldest Son, and his other Friends present perswaded him to the contrary; saying, We have often heard your Majesty say, you have twice saved Reynard from death, and that his Loyalty of late had so far repaid the Recompence of all his former Misdemeanors, that you had no cause to repent of all, or any your Favours. Hath it not been too, too often seen, that some who receive greatest Benefits, are most ungrateful to their Benefactors? And is there not a Proverb, Save a Thief from the Gallows, he will hang you if he can? All this is true, said the King, but sure our Cousin Reynard is not a Traytor. To this, his Son and Friends said, Sir, while your Majesty is of this mind, the depth of this Treason can never be sufficiently known; for if Reynard be sent for, he will deny all, and (if he be guilty,

as

as we believe he is) accuse others most maliciously, and so (if your Majesty give credit to his words) escape himself, and another time put that in practice effectually, which now (we have good reason to hope) he can never be able to accomplish. With these and the like words, the King was withdrawn from his intent of sending for Reynard the Fox. Therefore he turning to the Panther and Libbard, said: Which way can you enervate this Treason, and deliver the Traytors into our hands? They answered, My Lord we think it not possible to deliver Reynard himself, because he already intends to come last; and in surprisal of the other Lords, some one or other of Tiberts Lineage will enter in among them, and then seeing what is done, acquaint Reynard therewith; but for most of the other Lords, we may make sure of, before any thing of our intent is perceived, if Tibert, who will be sure to come this night, enter not with us into Court. For if your Majesty will be rightly informed by the effect, and be resolved to take your Traytors acting their Treason, we must have leave to depart and go to the place of Rendezvouz, at the time appointed to meet the Soldiers by us levyed, which will be near Six hundred; with these Soldiers we (with your Majesties leave) will enter the Court, and least Tibert should discover our intent, will counterfeit a fight, as against your Majesties Guard, and then rushing in, will by and by cry, all is our own. When this is done, one of us will call to Tibert, and send him away, telling him we have slain all the For ordered should be slain, and charge him to make haste. Thus we shall accomplish all things well; and undoubtedly, before intelligence can be given to Reynard, intangle most of the Nobles in their own Net.

A well meaning man cannot easily be perswaded to entertain bad thoughts of any one, that hath formerly been his friend; as appears here by the King, who would not believe that *Reynard* was a Traytor, &c.

The King liking the project, consented to their departure; and so soon as he had dismissed them, he consulted with his Friends what to do. They advise him to double his Guards, and to call in as many of his Friends as could be called in to that end; but that all might be kept secret, not to acquaint them with the present danger. The King did all

Here is also shewed how necessary the advice of Friends is, in a time of great danger.



things as they advised, and ordered all private Avenues belonging to the Court, to be stopped, lest Tibert or any of his Lineage should enter thereat.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVI.

How the Forces of the Lords met at the place appointed, and how *Firrapel*, and *Sly-look* entred the Court, and ensnared most of the Confederates, and among them *Tibert* the Cat.

SIr Firrapel the Libbard, and Sly-look the Panther, were no sooner gone from Court, but they hasted all they could to Reynard, who was at home waiting their coming; for the whole hinge of his business depended on their Intelligence, how squares went at Court. When they came near his Castle, he came forth and met them, and said, My noble Friends you are welcome, how is it you stayed so long? To this they answered, Most excellent Lord Reynard, after we had spoke unto the King according to the Instructions we received from your self; he entertained us with a large discourse of your Merits, telling us how highly he was pleased with your Lordships great diligence, by which he could take his pleasure without fear or care, adding many such like expressions too long to be now recited; we were constrained to stay by this occasion, otherwise we had waited on your Lordship sooner. All is well, said the For, you are come soon enough. I would have you now to mind your Levies, and see your Soldiers be all well armed. for fear of the worst, because you know, it is ordered that you give the onset. To this they replied, My Lord, we are ready to obey your command, and so they departed about their Levies, but not with the same intent as Reynard supposed. So soon as it began to be dark, the Soldiers in Troops repaired to the Forest, where their Lords were ready to attend them; and when they were all come, they embatteled them as soon as was possible. Reynard's Espials giving him Intelligence they were all ready, he gave command for their March; accordingly Sir Firrapel and his Cousin Sly-look marched out with their Six hundred Soldiers, having not many Volunteers out of the other Companies, because each Lord strove to

Here is Treason repaid with Treachery.

to have moſt Soldiers. Reynard met this Forlorn Hope, and ſaluted the Leaders very courteouſly, but ſpoke not loud. So on they march until they come to the Court-gates. When there, they ſtand a little, and make a pretended ſcuffle with the Kings Guard, who well knew the Kings mind and ſo reſiſted but coldly. But before Sir Firrapel was entred himſelf, he charged Tibert the Cat to wait in one certain place without the gate that he might the better inform him how ſquares went; and he, when it was time to be gone, have no let; withal charging him to command his Soldiers to lie cloſe round about the Walls of the Court, that if called to on any ſide, they might preſently be ready to run and give intelligence. Tibert did as he was commanded. Now when Sir Firrapel and his Couſin Sly-look with all their Soldiers were entred, and had ſtayed within ſome ſmall time. Sir Firrapel failed not to call to Tibert aloud, ſaying, the day is our own haſte quickly and tell our Lord Reynard, that all are dead whom he commanded ſhould be killed. Tibert hearing this, ſent two of his Soldiers to the Lord Pinwood, who was not far with the whole Army, to tell him the Newes; but ran himſelf to the Lord Reynard, and ſaid, Moſt noble Lord, your renowned Captains Firrapel, and Sly-look, have fully executed your Lordſhips commands, and all your Enemies are dead; this they have me tell you. The Fox hearing this, ſaid, It is good news indeed, if it be true: True Sir, ſaid the Cat, I'le warrant you. Nevertheleſs the Fox, like an old Soldier, would not believe the firſt report, but ſent away Sir Tibert, commanding him to enter into the Court, if poſſible, and then to tell him what he knew. In the mean while, Reynard commanded Pinwood the Wolf to march up to the Court-gates with the whole Army embattelled as they were, and then to make a ſtand, and call to him all the Commanders to adviſe what was fit to be done, ſtill (as before) wiſhing him to proceed warily, and to be well informed, before he attempted any thing. But the Wolf, being over-credulous, and above meaſure joyful at the Newes he had heard, forgat all counſel of warineſs. Therefore, being

Politick perſons believe not reports by Hear-ſay, but require a Teſtimony from ſight

come

come up, he found Sir Firrapel, and his Cousin Sly look, standing without the Court-gate, with all their Soldiers ready embattelled within. At this sight, he was confirmed in his former conceit, and therefore stepping a little before the Army, he saluted them, congratulating their prosperous success. To this they answer, We indeed, noble Lord Pinwood, did at first find some resistance, but our Soldiers courageously fighting, soon overcame the Guard and then the King and his Friends were without difficulty dispatched. Now my Lord, if it be your pleasure to walk in, and if your Honour will send for all the Commanders we may the better consult what is fit to be done within, when we are all together; and besides here is store of Provisions, which were left of the Feast. Here the Wolf interrupted, Provisions Sir, said he! I am in truth very hungry, having walked about all this night; and with these words proffered to go in. Then Sir Firrapel said I beseech your Lordship first to command the Army to stand still embattelled as they are, and then to send for Sir Bruin, and our other noble Commanders; otherwise, if your Lordship only enter your self, the other Lords will suspect some Treason is plotted by us, and so an irrecoverable distraction and danger will follow. It is well considered Sir Firrapel, said the Wolf. So the Wolf presently commanded the Army to stay and rest themselves there, where they were, but that the Commanders should all repair unto him, now gone into the Court. Which order was scarcely well understood, before the Wolf was entred within the Court-gate, he was in such haste to fill his belly, as he supposed he should. Now with him Sir Tibert would have entred, but the Soldiers diligently watching on purpose to prevent him, (for they had order so to do) put him by, saying, he might come in anon after the Nobles; adding also this, Here is not so much room within as to let in every one that comes So Tibert waited till all the Lords were come to the Gate, & seeing the guard of soldiers to open themselves to make way for them to come in, advised a Nephew of his to enter in at one side of the gate & slip by.

Covetous and greedy minded men, forgetting all good & wholsome counsel given them, rush headlong upon their own ruine, where matter of profit is shewed as a bait.

between the Soldiers Legs, and so get in. His Nephew did so, and was in. Tibert himself walked under Bruin's belly, and so was admitted unespied; after Bruin the Bear all the other Commanders walked in, not one was missing, except Bitelas the Ape, who was gone to his Cousin Reynard; whether sent for by him, or because he suspected the Treachery, is not known. When all were within, the Court-gates were shut; and all the Lords were immediately laid hold of, and secured; also Tibert the Cat with them; but his Nephew seeing what was done, in great fear leapt over that Soldiers head, who would have taken him, and so escaped: Sir Firrapel understanding that Tiberts Nephew was gone, knew it was high time to disperse the Army. Therefore he with Four hundred Soldiers sallyed out upon them, charging them (who were before disordered) in so furious a manner as most of them fled, leaving their Arms behind them; many of them were taken Prisoners, and sent into the Court, but some few escaped and ran to Reynard's Company.

CHAP. XVII.

How the Fox consulting with his Uncle *Bitelas* the Ape, returned to his Castle, and dismissed part of his Soldiers.

THe For greatly perplexed at the ruin of his Army, of which he was too, too surely informed by the Run-aways, and having just before understood how all the Nobles were betrayed, he was almost at his wits end. Bitelas the Ape seeing his Cousin Reynard so exceedingly overcome with grief, said, Cousin, it is not the first time you have been in danger, and yet have overcome all difficulties, why not now? Ah, Uncle, said the For, there is a vast difference between what I then was, and what I am now, or at least was but three hours ago. And I too well know, that the greater any one is, when he falls his fall is so much the more dangerous. Before I dared some few only, and those not considerable persons,

persons; but now I have displeased the King himself, and all his most intimate friends; therefore I must needs be utterly undone. But Cousin, said the Ape, have you not made some provision before-hand to secure your self in this time of need? For every one that is wise, will always provide for the worst. Yes Uncle, I have done as much as could be, for I fortified my Castle long before, and have stored it with all sorts of Provision: but yet I am in a very great strait: if I draw all this Company into Malepardus after me, their number is so great as I shall not be able to hold out a long Siege, especially if all the private Avenues of my Castle be stopped up, as they will be to be sure, if the King with his Forces shall come to sit down before it. For so soon as I, or my Soldiers shall be restrained from forage, so many mouths will quickly devour all. And if I draw not in with me a sufficient number to make sallies out upon my Enemies, then they will adventure to storm or blow up my Fort, and what shall become of us then? Truly, it is an hard case, Cousin, said the Ape; but cheer up; and first of all, with-draw from this place, leaving the Kings highway, and betake your self and Soldiers to Covert, in some by Lane, that if the King pursue, he may not find you. Thus doing, you will have some respit to determine of your March. According to the Ape's advice, the Fox withdrew into a by-Lane with all his Soldiers. Then his Uncle again said to him, Now Cousin you need fear no surprisal, at least for an hour or two. If you like not to hasten to your Castle and there to abide the brunt, what is your determination? I cannot at all judg it safe for us to go to the King, especially whilst his rage is at such an height, as it must needs be at this time. Therefore I judg nothing will conduce more to our security, than to protract the time, the best way we can. Indeed Uncle, said the Fox, I think it will be best to do as you say; but the many mouths we have to feed will endanger all. Why Cousin, you have a remedy for that. Know you not that three or four hundred in a Fort, will be able to resist ten thousand in the Field. Yes Uncle, quoth the Fox, I well knew it, yet I would have more than three hundred, yea

Great disasters astonish the most politick, especially when the knowledg thereof comes unexpected; as here is seen in the Fox, who although before, never had a shift to seek, yet now is so confounded, as he knows not which way to turn himself.

more than four hundred Soldiers, if I were sure not to be blockt up too suddenly. Cousin, Cousin, said the Ape, you must determine somewhat speedily: Be ruled by me, I pray chuse out the weakest of your Soldiers and dismiss them, and retain none with you, but such as are stout and resolute Warriers. To this the Fox hearkned, and presently discharged three hundred and odd of the weakest, but the strongest with him were near four hundred, his Army being increased by the Run-aways who were retained still with him; and because the night was far spent, and he durst not abide where he was till day-light, he by a swift march came toh is own Castle by break of day.

CHAP. XVIII.

How the Fox was pursued, and many of his Soldiers that he dismissed, taken by the Pursuers.

WHen Firrapel the Libbard, as is aforeshewed, had routed and dispersed the Army that lay before the Court; not long after it was thought convenient to send out other fresh Soldiers, in pursuit of the Fox and his Company. The Leader of these fresh Soldiers was one of the Kings Friends, that supped with him that night. He having no guide to direct him where to find the Fox, bade his Soldiers to lie in wait for straglers. So they did, and in a short time one of them laid hold of one of Tiberts Lineage, and cried out a Spy, a Spy; the Captain hearing this, said, bind him and bring him hither: When he was brought bound to the Captain, he asked him what he was? he told him, he was one of Sir Tiberts Kindred. Well then, said the Captain, go along with us, and shew us the place where that Trayterous Lord Reynard is. So on they went with this their Guide to that very by-Lane in which Reynard and his Uncle Bitelas had been, but were gone. Then he again examined the Guide, if he knew not where they were gone. The Guide told him, whither they were

were gone he could not tell, for whilst they were with their Soldiers in that by-Lane, he was sent out with several others to lie as near the Court, as they could, to give notice if any marched out to attaque the Lord Reynard. And that he having layn long thereabout, did at length return to that place, but found neither him, nor his Soldiers, except some few that were dismissed by him, as they said, and so were going to their own homes. Which way went they, said the Captain? this way Sir, said the Guide, (pointing westward from the Court) and if you hasten, you will overtake them, for they go not fast. The Captain having this intelligence from the guide, commanded his Soldiers to follow close. In a little time they found two or three, and passing further on, found several others by threes and fours in a Company; this course they held till they had gleaned up almost an hundred. Then the Captain fearing to be over-burthened with too many Prisoners, gave command to pursue no further. So he with these Prisoners hasted to the King, but he had marched out so far in pursuit, as it was Sun-rise ere he came to the Court.

CHAP. XIX.

Of the Examination of the Traytors and Prisoners.

When this Captain with his party were come into the Court, and the King by him understood that Reynard was fled: He then, fearing no Enemy, commanded his Purveyors to bring Provision in abundance, that he and all his Friends might eat and be merry. The Purveyors made ready as soon as was possible, and the King and all his Friends dined very chearfully; after this the Servitors dined, and what was left was given to the Captive Prisoners; but the Traytors all this while had neither eat nor drunk. Therefore the King commanded, that what the Prisoners left, the Traytors should have divided among them. This was done accordingly, and they had no more, any of

them except Tibert who by good fortune had a Mouse given him by a certain Soldier, who found it dead and trod on in the Court. This present was so thankfully accepted by Sir Tibert, as he promised to requite him who gave it with a greater Booty, if ever he had his Liberty.

When the King and his Friends had dined, as we said; The King looking on Sir Firrapel and his Cousin Sly look, said, Now my Noble Lords, I perceive you have told me a truth, you have in very deed convinced me of that which I could not otherwise have believed, although my incredulity has cost me my life. I thank you both for your Loyalty, and all you my Friends for your faithful advice and assistance. Now I judg it convenient that we first examine the Prisoners, and afterward the Traytors; that if we find any not guilty, we may dismiss them. Then Sir Firrapel stood up and said Noble Prince, I do verily believe that all the Captive Prisoners are not guilty, for they were led by their Lords, but about what they could not tell, as by Examination your Majesty will clearly find. Well then, said the King, let Reynard's Soldiers be first called. So when they were brought before the King, his Majesty asked them, how they durst take up arms against himself? Some of them answered, they were hired Soldiers, hired by the Lord Reynard, and by him led forth the last night; but about what, or for what cause, they never knew, till some of the other Lord's Soldiers run in among them, saying, the whole Army was either killed, or taken; then indeed said they we mistrusted we were led against your Majesty, but yet of that could not be assured, because those that fled from before the Court-gates unto us could not tell who were their Enemies, only they said, they who set upon them came all out at the Court-gates. The King hearing the simplicity of their answer dismissed them, and all the other Prisoners, strictly charging them to be ready at his Summons, when he thought good to hunt the Traytor Reynard. They all bowing themselves promised they would courageously fight against the Kings Enemies. So they all departed safely to their own homes.

This

This being done, the King said, now my Friends, I perceive that this is Reynard's work, it is managed so craftily; for I plainly see, that not one of the Commons is guilty of this Treason, because they knew not what they went about. Therefore let the Lord Pinwood be first called. So Pinwood was brought in before the King and his Friends, with Bellin's Gown on his back, quaking and trembling: The King no sooner saw him but he sternly said, Pull off the Villain's disguise, that we may see him as he is. Then did Sir Firrapel and his Cousin Sly-look, immediately tear off Bellin's Gown, and when all the Company saw it was Hegrim the Wolf, they laughed heartily. As soon as they were all silent, the King said Thou wretch, what moved thee to conspire my death, who from a low and vile estate advanced thee to so great Honour? Is Treason Religion? Or, is Murder and Treason virtue in a Priest? At these words the Wolf was so frighted, as he pist for fear. At length he said, The Lord Reynard gave me presents often, and often spake to me, that I should commend him before the Lords, and at length perswade them to establish him in the Royal Throne. And was that all said the King? Yes, all indeed Sir, said the Wolf (and then pist again) except that we must with hired Soldiers (who must know nothing before-hand of the Business) come hither and kill your Majesty and all the Royal Family, and then set the Crown on Reynard's Head. Enough, enough, said the King. Take away the Villain, and chain him to a stake, and so keep him, with bread and dirty water until I call for him. So the Keeper who had charge of this Prisoner, took him away, and bound, and fed him, according to the King's will.

Then the King called for Sir Bruin the Bear, who was immediately brought and examined, and after Examination was found to acknowledg himself guilty of the Treason; onely he pleaded the Wolf and the Ape instigated him thereto. So he was taken away and bound, and fed as the former. After him all the rest were called one

Malefactors of base spirit, and glutonous disposition, are in their affliction more dejected than others: and the terrour of punishment is most grievous to such, because their vexation ariseth not from the horrour and fetid [illegible] of their unexpected evils; but from a sense of being utterly deprived of liberty, to persist in that course of life.



one by one, and all except Tibert confeſſed the ſame as Bruin did, accuſing the Ape and the Wolf. But Tibert the Cat pleaded not Guilty; affirming as he was Secretary to the Wolf, he was obliged not to reveal his Maſters Secrets, therefore he was clear of this Treaſon. If ſo, ſaid the King, why did you lead a band of your own Lineage? I led none

Sir,

Sir, but went where I was sent, said the Cat. Then the King said, how say you Sir Firrapel? Mighty Prince, said the Libbard, This Sir Tibert was made Captain of the Scouts (which were all of his own Lineage) by the Lord Reynard; and if Scouts know not what they go about, and go only where they are sent, I leave that to your Majesty to judg. The King hearing this, said no more, but Away with the Traytor, look to him Keeper. Then the King arose, and he and his Friends walked out into the Court-walks.

CHAP. XX.

How the Fox with his Soldiers made incursions the next day so eagerly on several of the Neighbouring Beasts, that they complain to the King.

During the time the Fox was in prosperity, and had abundance of all things, either given by way of Presents, or obtained by Delinquents forfeitures, the Neighbouring Beasts, that dwelt not far from Reynards Castle, had rest and peace, and therefore without fear were wont to walk abroad in the day-time all there about. But when Reynard was fled home in fear and great danger, with his Soldiers, intending there to abide a Siege, and protract the time as long as was possible, (for he knew he was now uncapable of mercy) he on a sudden set forth with two hundred Soldiers, who he commanded all to go silently along by the Hedges which encompassed a large Warren, where many Conies dwelt. These Conies fearless, and suspecting nothing, played and skipped about in the Sun-shine, as they were daily wont to do; but suddenly Reynard with his Soldiers rushed in among them, and slew two hundred outright presently, all which he bore away to his Castle. And immediately returned again, where several She-goats fed their young ones, all which young ones he and his Soldiers seized and carried home. Many other Incursions he made

Commonly the most peaceable feel the first strokes of War.

made that day further into the Country, and made great havock and spoil. At this all the Neighbouring Beasts were alarum'd, and resolved to stand upon their defence. But when they understood by the eldest of the Goats and Conies, who it was had done their Neighbours this great wrong, they resolved joyntly to go together to the Court and complain to the King; for by this time they had all notice of Reynard's Treason and Rebellion; and therefore had no doubt but they should be heard. So they in the Evening come in troops to the Court-gates, where the Guard seeing them, demand the cause of their coming thus in multitudes? They answer, We are come to complain to his Majesty of the great Outrages Reynard and his company have committed. So the Guard acquainted the King, who immediately came forth to them; saying, Who is it that hath wronged you? The Conies answer, If your Majesty be pleased to hear us, we will truly declare what we have suffred. The King said, speak, we will hear you. Then one of the eldest among them said,

Dread Soveraign, We your Majesties peaceable Subjects, being imployed about our occasions in tending our young ones, drew them forth to take the Air in the morning, the Traytor Reynard lying in wait (as it seems) with many Soldiers, suddenly slew two hundred of us, (for so many young and old are missing) and bear away the Bodies to his Castle of Malepardus, for there we saw him plainly go in with all his Soldiers, every one of them bearing one of our dear Friends and Kinsfolks dead; this we could not have known, had not some of us adventured to run after them, to see which way they went, and who they were. Thus spake the Conies.

The Goats also made a like complaint of sudden surprising their Kid before they were aware. And all the other Beasts who had sustained wrong, exhibited their Complaints with tears in their eyes, earnestly requesting his Majesty to take compassion of them, and to a-

venge

venge their cause of such a bloody Murtherer. The King (in a rage shaking his curled locks) said, Be content, if I live I will avenge my self and you, on that cursed Traytor Reynard, to morrow by this time, if possible. So they bowing themselves very submissively, departed.

CHAP. XXI.

How the King with his Kinsfolks, and the Soldiers of Sir *Firrapel*, and his Cousin *Sly-look*, marched out of the Court to *Malepardus*, and there summoned the Fox to surrender himself.

EArly in the Morning the King willed Sir Firrapel and his Cousin Sly-look to command their Soldiers to make ready for a March, for he would speedily march to Malepardus, to be avenged of the Traytors Reynard and Bittelas. When the Soldiers were ready, the King sets out first with his eldest Son, Kinsfolks and Friends; then followed Sir Firrapel and his Cousin with their Soldiers, of whom, and of Servitors, one hundred were left in the Court, to keep Guard there, and secure the Prisoners. When all that were appointed for this Expedition were gone forth, the Court-gates were diligently shut; and the King himself being foremost, made an halt, and turning him to his Son, said, Son, I this day commit the leading of the Army to your self, that if possible you may have the honour of finding out and subduing the crafty and Treacherous Varlet Reynard. Therefore lead as you please, we all will follow, as well as we can. So this young Prince betaking himself to his Father and friends, said no more, but march on Sirs. And indeed he led so hard, without speaking aught, as he got within sight of Malepardus, before Noon. When he saw the place, he stood still, and so did they all. Then the King said, now Son it will be good to rest here a while, and in the mean time to consider what we have to do. First of all we should do our best to learn of what strength our Enemies be within, whether it be best to besiege or assault them suddenly. For if we do not one of these our labor will be to no purpose. For they will not come forth to fight with us, nor neither be we able with our Soldiers, so by length of time to hurt them, or suddenly

with fire & sword endeavour to force the Castle, and so drive them forth. His Son said my Lord to send out Scouts to discover what they can, is most necessary; but to begirt the Castle we have not Forces enough, neither is that convenient at present, because we know not the private Avenues and Holes belonging to the Castle, how far they are extended, and so they may happen to lie within them, and by that means when we only expect an Enemy before us, they issuing out, assault us behind, and on every side suddenly. It is well thought on, said the King. Therefore send out some of the nimblest Soldiers to espy whether they see any passing to & from the Castle So Spies were sent, and charged to lie close at a good distance from the Castle round about. In a little time they discovered several Beasts laden with Provisions to pass in by holes under the Walls of Malepardus; and others not loaded, coming forth further off, and among those Scouts there was one, who see the Earth cast up just before him; he lying close a little while, at length see Reynard himself putting forth his Head; but he espying that the Coast was not clear, drew back: then did this Scout leap to the Hole, but the For had filled it up so in that short time, the Scout could not so much as put in one hand. He by this set a mark, and lay still, at length he spyed one of Reynard's Soldiers coming forth of another hole a little further off; him he suffred to come quite out, and then immediately seized him, and carryed him to the King. Others of the Scouts saw like passages, and some of them took of Reynard's Soldiers three or four other that were laden and going to the Castle. When all the Scouts were returned, it was found by their Relation, that none went into the Castle laden by those private holes, but by larger holes just under the Castle-walls. The King hearing this, examined the four Prisoners that were taken laden with Provisions first; they tell him, that the For and his Uncle Bacelas were within the Castle, and that with them the Soldiers in number were not above Three hundred seventy-five in all, and that he had store of Provisions of all sorts; yet fearing that would

Here is shewed the danger of attempting any thing in War, without good advice. And how beneficial a right understanding of the Enemy's condition, is for a future management of Martial Affairs.

would not be enough, one half of the Soldiers were yesterday imployed in forraging, and the other half to day; withal adding, if his Majesty were pleased he might take near an hundred of them with their booty in a short time, for near so many were still out, and had not returned since morning; because they who went out yesterday had so alarum'd the Country thereabouts, as near home nothing could be got. Then the King immediately sent out a great Party, here and there to lie in wait on every side. Having done this, he examined the Soldier that was taken coming out of an hole that lead from the Castle. He said, that the Lord Reynard (as he still called him) being informed by the Soldiers, who returned into the Castle with their Booty, that there were lyers in wait, and that your Majesty was near with an Army, was resolved to go forth by that Avenue where he was seen to put out his head, to see whether the report was true, and finding by his own experience that it was too true, he presently commanded me to run to the Soldiers that are yet out, and bid them to retire into Covert till night, and then come home; this I had done, had I not been taken, as your Majesty sees. So the King gave command to secure the Prisoners, yet that they should be used well. After this, the King again consulting with his Lords, determined to send a Summons to Reynard to deliver himself and Castle into the Kings hand. This Summons they judged convenient to send speedily, before the Fox knew what strength the King had, least in the night he should work them some mischief. So Sir Firrapel the Libbard, with what Company he pleased, was appointed to Summon the Fox to deliver up his Castle. Sir Firrapel accordingly took forty Soldiers with him, and came as near to the Castle as he thought he might with safety, and called aloud, Sir Reynard, Sir Reynard, his Majesty commands you to deliver up your Fort, with all the Ammunition you have, into his hands this night, otherwise he is resolved to use all extremity to force it. By that time he had ended his Speech, a shower of Stones was poured down upon him and

Traytors having forfeited their Lives grow desperate, and will hearken to no Summons, but at the hearing thereof, are the more enraged.

his Soldiers, which hurt many of them, and doubtless had they been nearer, would have killed most of them. Sir Firapel thus answered, hastens to the King, and shews him some of his Soldiers wounded. Upon this the King resolves to be revenged; therefore said to his Son, Son, I see it will be long work, and we have not soldiers enough to lay a close Siege. Therefore when those you have sent out be come in, encamp your selves as securely as you can, either in the place where you are, or further off from the Castle, not failing to keep good Guard all night; and I in the mean time will return home, and send out my Mandates for raising the Countrey speedily, and then undoubtedly we shall dispatch this business to our content. So the King went to Court, and his Son encamped the Army, who for that night supped with what the Scouts brought in.

CHAP. XXII.

How the Fox's Soldiers in the night assailed the King's Camp, and what ensued thereupon.

After Supper the Watch was ordered, and Officers appointed to change the Centries often, also to set Purones to lie round about the Camp. All this while the Fox was not idle, but being extreamly discontented that he had lost so many of his Soldiers (for the King's Scouts brought in above forty with their Wounds) studied how he might most annoy his Enemies in the Night. Therefore in the dead of the Night he sent out a party of three hundred, advising them to march silently, and to encompass the Camp round, and when they were drawn very near to it in their encompassing, all at once to cry out aloud, Now for the Lord Reynard; and then immediately to assault the Centries first, and afterward the Camp it self (for he knew the Enemy were encamped very close together, so as three hundred Soldiers all in a File might conveniently encompass it on every side. This party was led by his Uncle Bicelas (for the Fox would rather lose all the Friends he had, than endanger his own person)

perſon) who very ſlyly marched his Soldiers in the form of an half Moon, that ſo they might keep together, and yet be in a poſture ready to begirt the Camp ſuddenly. This enterprize of his was perceived by the Purdues, and timely intelligence given to the Lord Firrapel, who himſelf watched. He therefore on the other ſide of the Camp drew out his Soldiers, which he had in readineſs, and dividing them in two parts, led one part himſelf, and left the other part to the leading of his Lieutenant; then march they ſoftly round the Camp on two ſides, to meet with the Horns of the Enemies Half-Moon, which they quickly met with, engaged and routed, and purſued them till they were driven cloſe together, juſt before the other Gate of the Camp, right oppoſite to that out of which the Lord Firrapel iſſued; the other Soldiers that were at reſt in the Camp, newly allarum'd, they ſtunk their Enemies, who were turned both ways to reſiſt the Lord Firrapel and his Lieutenant; in this miſerable plight, ſome throw down their Arms and yield themſelves Priſoners, others are ſlain outright, (among which Bieleb the Ape, their Captain, was one) many taken, becauſe of their Wounds, which prevented their flight and ſome eſcaped to carry the News to Malepardus. After the fight was done, they numbred the Captives, and found them to be a hundred and ſix, the dead they accounted not till morning; but then it appeared, that of the King's Soldiers were ſlain ſix, and ſeveral wounded; but of Reynard's forces forty eight, ſo that of the three hundred that iſſued out of Malepardus, there returned but a hundred and ſixty ſix. Thus in one day and a night Reynard loſt two hundred of his three hundred ſeventy-five Soldiers, which he feared would be too many.

This Chapter ſhews how provident Commanders enervate and fruſtrate the policy and rage of their Enemies.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXIII.

How the King gave command to proclaim all Traytors that assisted *Reynard*, promising pardon to those that would desert him, &c.

EArly in the morning the news of this Victory, and of the death of Bitelas the Ape, was carryed to Court by one purposely sent thither to acquaint his Majesty how matters went. The King greatly pleased with the newes, thought of another way to weaken Reynard, before the Countrey did come in. Therefore he by the same Messenger sent an express order to his Son to draw out all his Forces out of the Camp, and to march to Malepardus, as close as was convenient, and there in his name to proclaim all Traytors, that assisted Reynard, withal promising pardon to all that would desert him. Upon this Message the King's Son drew out all the Forces he had (leaving not one in the Camp, for he feared no enemy) and marched directly to Malepardus; being thither come, and within the hearing of those within, he commanded silence, and afterward caused the Cryer to proclaim all Traytors that assisted Reynard, but present pardon to all those who would within three hours desert him. Upon the hearing of this, neer an hundred of Reynard's Soldiers fled from him, and came and offred their Service to the King. But ere this was effected, some thousands of the Commons who had been summoned by the King, marched toward Malepardus. The King's Son seeing them, sent out certain Scouts to enquire what they were? they answer, they were summoned by the King to come and assist his Son, in taking the Traytor Reynard. So the young Prince being glad of this Supply, did forthwith command them to begirt the Castle. They accordingly lie down before it all that day, but see no enemy appear. In the mean while, the King's Son spoors the Lord Firrapel, and his Cousin Sly-look, to imploy their Soldiers to march at some distance round about Malepardus, that wheresoever they saw any Avenues,

It is commonly seen, that the followers of Traytors, readily forsake them, when they see a probability of seeing themselves



or private holes, they might ſtop them with heavy ſtones; withal commanding to ſet out Scouts, who ſhould lie cloſe in manner of Pardues, the better to deſery the outgoing of the Enemies. All theſe things being done, no Enemy was ſeen, either to appear in the Caſtle, or to come forth by thoſe private Avennes, which as faſt as they could they

ſtopped

stopped) or by any other new made hole. Therefore now nothing was thought on but a storm, yet night being so near, they judged it not seasonable to begin the Assault until morning; in the mean while, care was taken that the Poles and Avernes should be watched all night. This was accordingly done.

CHAP. XXIV.

How the Fox's Castle was stormed, and all within killed, onely Reynard himself taken alive, as the King had commanded.

EArly on the Morrow (before [illegible] being brought, and all things ready for the Storm, the Soldiers only waited for the word of Command. Sir Firapel the Lubbard was commanded with his Soldiers to begin the Assault. But the Fox who all this while was not idle, had provided for their coming before hand, and round about the Castle-Walls on the inside had digged deep Trenches of a great depth, which stood full of water, by him drawn thither from a Spring, which stood within his Castle. Over this Trench upon the Walls he had made a false Battlement seemingly strong, on which when four hundred of the Soldiers (commanded by Sir Firapel) had got up, the Battlements breaking down, they fell into the Trenches, where most of them drowned one another in striving to get out, the residue were killed by Reynards Soldiers.

Bold Adventurers are hardy, therefore the wiles of an Enemy should always be suspected

This overthrow perplexed Sir Firapel and the Prince exceedingly; for the possibility of Conning it seemed now to be taken away. Therefore the Prince consults with all his friends about the present Business. After a little time it was agreed by them to send up certain Soldiers to the top of the Wall, with order not to attempt to leap down, what provocation soever was given, but to shoot and fling at their Enemies, if need were, and to espy how the Avenues belonging to the Castle had their

fa-

in-let. They accordingly march up round about the Castle, and met with no small provocations from the Enemy (who were but few in number) yet they observed what they were commanded, and between whiles well viewed the Trench and over it they espyed several Bridges, many in number round about, yet all of them were so narrow, as but one Soldier could pass abreast upon them at once. This intelligence being given to the Prince, he commanded two thousand Soldiers to employ themselves in opening the Avenues, and making them wider, which was speedily done; then he ordered more Soldiers to ascend the Walls, thereby to amuse the Enemy, giving them command to shout and sing, but keeping in their places. Whilst this was doing he sent in six hundred Soldiers through the Avenues, commanding them to fight resolutely, and get over the Bridges, then to slay all they found in the Castle, except only Reynard himself; and for their encouragement he promised them among them full one half of the Booty that should be taken therein; and that if any died in the Attempt (as he hoped none would) his Wife and Children should have all his part duly given to them.

Here is seen how Assailants adventuring too rashly, are taught by their own loss to be afterward more wary.

Promise of Reynard's absolutely necessary in dangerous attempts.

With this encouragement they boldly entred the Avenues, some of which stunk so abominably, as the Soldiers were almost poysoned; nevertheless they hastned forward, and got to the mouths of those Holes where they plainly saw the Bridges, and Reynard's Soldiers standing here and there one, very near them. But by the mouths of the Holes they saw another out-let, one of which being opened, it was found to be one of them Holes, by which the Fox's Soldiers were wont to enter, when laden with Booty. Upon this Sir Firapel gave command, that all the other Holes (which were as many as there were private Avenues) should be opened; this was accordingly done by the six hundred Soldiers, who were in those Avenues, but durst not venture over the Bridges. Now when they saw great numbers might speedily have entrance that way to back upon, they were encouraged and boldly

set forward. Yet in the mean while Reynard's Soldiers attempted to pluck up the Bridges; but because they were shot at, both from the top of the Walls, and also from the mouths of the Holes, they could not effect what they desired. Therefore as they gave back, the Kings Soldiers came forward, and in a very short time above one thousand got over the Bridges; then they flew about like wild Beasts, killing all they found, and indeed all that were in the Castle died at that time; and Reynard himself was knockt down with a Battle-axe by a Soldier who knew him not; but his fellow seeing him about to kill the Fox, said, That is the Traytor himself. Then that Soldier who had knockt him down, led him out of the Castle, and carryed him to the Prince, who rejoiced exceedingly that his Enemy was taken alive. After this, the Soldiers that first entred, had half the Booty, and the residue was divided among the whole Army.

CHAP. XXV.

Of dissolving of the Army, and how *Reynard* the Fox was carryed Prisoner to the Court, and what passed after this.

AS soon as this work was ended, and the Castle demolished, the Prince sent home all those Soldiers who were raised by Summons for his Assistance immediately, and then with the two hundred Soldiers of Sir Firrapel that remained alive, and all his other Friends, he marched to Court leading the Fox along with them. A little before Sunset they were all come to the Court, where they were welcomed by the King, with great expressions of Joy, only some sorrow was intermixed by reason of the loss of those four hundred brave Soldiers who were drowned and killed by the Fox's policy. Therefore the King at that time before he sat down, declared that the two hundred Soldiers yet living should be retained as a Guard for his Person, and over them Sir Firrapel the Libbard should be chief commander, and his Lieutenant-General of all Forces that should

be

be raised at any time ever after, when need should be. But unto Sly-look the Panther, Firrapel's Cousin, he said, As for you my Lord I intend to constitute you the Keeper of my Stores and Steward of my House. After this, he spake to all his Friends, praising their readiness and valour; and to them he promised Gifts and Rewards, as soon as all his trouble was over; therefore he willed and desired them not to depart, until the Execution of Reynard and all the Traytors was passed.

When the King had ended his Speech, his Son asked him, if he would see the Traytor Reynard? The King answered, No, not at this time, let him be bound, and diligently lookt too, that he escape not; Upon this, the Soldiers that guarded the For, haled him to the Prison, and there in a stinking hole chained him to a stake, that was fixed in the ground.

Then the King royally feasted his Friends, and the two Lords, Firrapel and Sly-look. Also to every Company of Soldiers he sent a large Pittance, so they all feasted right joyfully: But the Prisoners in the hearing of all this were almost pined with hunger, especially Isegrim the Wolf. After the Feast was over, and all the Kings Servitors had supped, they gave to every Prisoner a few scraps, and carried into them a small quantity of dirty water. And indeed their usage was so hard, as they all even wished Death rather than Life.

CHAP. XXVI.

How the Fox was brought before the King, and Examined; of the Answer he gave; and how he and all the other Traytors were condemned.

ON the Morrow the King sitting among his Nobles and Friends, said, I suppose it is now high time that we call Reynard before us. To which they all assented. Therefore Sir Firrapel went to the Prison, and commanded that Reynard should be brought forth. His Keeper presently obeying, loosed Reynard from the Stake to which he was chained, and by his Chain led him into the Kings Presence. The King at the sight of him was so fraught with Ire as he could not speak, until a little time being passed, his fury was allayed; then he said aloud, False Miscreant, how darest thou to hold up thy head, (for the Fox seemingly undaunted, steadfastly looked upon the King) who art so loaden with Mices, as the worst of all living Creatures is not more vile! Was it not enough for you (base Traytor) to insinuate into my affections so far, by Dissimulations (as now I have great reason to judg) as to engage me to invest that monstrously wicked and cruel Beast Isegrim, with an Office (due to the best of Creatures) and Title so honourable; but also to perswade me to create perfidious Bruin Earl of the Forests; and last of all (as if before you had not been vile enough) to instigate these and all my Nobles at once against me; and all this for your own base ends, which can never be accomplished? Have I honoured you for this end? Or would any Creature living have thought, that he who I most honoured, would have conspired my Ruin most? What sayest thou to this?

Politick persons dissemble their fear till an aggravation of their Crimes makes them relent.

To this, the Fox said not one word; but at last hung down his head. The King said, speak wretch, or I will pronounce Sentence against you speedily. At last the Fox said, My Lord, I have so many Enemies that it will be in vain to say any thing contrary to what they have affirmed;

and

and since I know I must die; I here before your Majesty declare I am guilty of what is laid to my charge, and would have slain your Majesty (for which I am now right sorrowful) if my design had not been frustrated by the Treason of Firrapel and his Cousin. It is enough, said the King, call in all the other Traytors, that as they all conspired together, so they may together hear their Sentence of Death justly to be pronounced against them; and then their Execution shall quickly follow. So all the Traytors were brought in. Then did the King with the advice of his Friends, in this manner proceed to Judgment. Since you are now all together (except Bitelas the Ape, who died a death too honourable for his Merit) we judg it meet, you should all hear your Sentence at one time. Therefore Reynard first hearken to your Sentence: Because you have Trayterously endeavoured the Subversion of our Government, and Royal Dignity, I condemn you to Death, in this manner to be executed upon you. First you shall be dragged contumelously from this Place to the Place of Execution, and there your right hand shall be cut off, afterward you shall be hanged by the neck until you are dead, dead. After death your Head shall be cut off, and together with your right hand be set up in publick view, on some conspicuous place, for a terror to all Traytors for the future. Unto the Wolf he also repeated the above-said words, and pronounced the same Sentence exactly in all points. But on all the other Traytors, he only pronounced the Sentence of Death in manner and form as you have heard, except in cutting off their heads, and right hands, which was not mentioned in their Sentences.

After this the Prisoners were taken away until the place and time of Execution was fully determined, and agreed on by the King and his Friends.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXVII.

Of the Fox's Confession, and the Execution of himself and all the Trayters.

IN the Evening of the same day that Judgment was given, the King and his Friends again consulted together, about the place and time of Execution. At length it was agreed on, that the place should be on the outside of that Forest, out of which the Traytors marched to put their design in execution. And the time, the next morning early. In the mean while, that all things should be provided in readiness, and the Prisoners have notice of their death so near approaching.

Now when the Morrow was come, and the King and his Friends were gone before to take their standings commodiously to avoid the Press; (which they knew would be great) The For himself, and all the other Traytors were led out of their several Prisons; then were their legs and hands tyed, the Halters with which they were to be hanged, were fastned about their necks, and by them they were dragged (with houtings and shouts of the multitude) to the place of Execution: When there, Ladders were erected against the Trees, (which were more than enough to hang all the Traytors) and each Prisoner, by his Executioner, led up those Ladders, and immediately the Executioners fastned the ropes to the Trees (supposing they must be hanged as soon as they came there) because it was the custom of their Country in other Cases to hang Malefactors presently, but the King spake to the Executioners, and said, Be not too hasty, if any of the Prisoners will purge himself by Confession he shall have as free liberty as any one of our Subjects hath, who dieth on his bed. The For hearing this, said:

Dread Soveraign, and you my Lords here present. I am not a little comforted, that I have liberty to ease my mind, which is sorely burthened with the horror of my Sins, I have



have been a loose Liver all my days; I have often pretended Sanctity, and amendment of Life, yet all was by pretence. I flew Kayward the Hare, though Bellin dies for it: Oh

thy death, and the great ruin that hath ever since befell thy Family, is all the effect of my falsenesse. The King hearing this, was extreamly troubled, and said, What! have we put to death a righteous person, through false information? Alas! what have we done? To this the Fox said. It is so noble King, I am the person who wrought so great mischief; and I also perswaded your Majesty to advance Sir Isegrim the Wolf, and Sir Brun the Bear, for my own ends. I likewise was so wicked, as designedly to give them and all the other Lords Gifts and Presents often, and then spake to Isegrim to perswade the Lords to make me King in your Majesties stead as they would have done if Sir Firapel and his Cousin had not betrayed us all. Besides in all Cases that ever were brought before me, I always more sought my own interest than the execution of Justice, yet was still seemingly just, by which means I gained so great Riches, as I not knowing my self, would have been what your Majesty is, &c. Then the King said to the Fox, well Reynard, I have heard you, and do now plainly perceive, that if you had died for your first faults, you had not lived to have perpetrated so great and enormous Crimes, therefore for the future, neither fair words, nor ought else shall oblige me to pardon Malefactors deserving death.

Riche puff up, and when men of low degree attain to great wealth and honour, they (not knowing how to bridle their inordinate Appetites) do very often aspiring higher, ruin themselves, as by this History is plainly evident.

The King having said this, ordered the Executioner to do his Office; so he immediately cut off Reynard's right hand, and afterward turned him off the Ladder. In the mean while the King spake to Sir Isegrim the Wolf, and said, Isegrim have you any thing to say before the Executioner do his Office? Nothing Sir, said the Wolf, (looking roguishly except that I was drawn in by the Fox's subtility, and his great promises made me forget my Loyalty to your Majesty, and readily to absolve both him and Sir Brun of their oath of fidelity sworn to your Majesty, and by me administred. Oh execrable Villain, said the King, what! durst you release any Subject of his sworn fealty to us? After this the King would not hear him any further, but spake to the Executioner, and said, Dispatch this Varlet out of my sight quickly.

quickly. So the Executioner presently cut off his hand, and then turned him off the Ladder. Next to him Sir *Bruin* the Bear was asked, if he had ought to say? but he answered, No; and so was quickly turned off. After him all the rest in order were asked, if they would say any thing before they died? but they all answered, They could say no more than they had already said in their Examination; therefore they were all turned off. After it was supposed the Traytors were dead the King gave command they should be cut down, and their bodies buried in one Pit. Accordingly they were all cut down, being all stark dead, except Tibert the Cat, who stirred a little, therefore his brains were beat out by one of the Guard, and the bodies of them all were thrown into one Pit, except the Heads and right Hands of Reynard and Hegrim, which were carryed to the Palace, and there set on Poles, placed on the uppermost Tower of the same, so high as they might be easily seen by all that passed by the Court.

Thus have you as true an account of these matters as ever was given by any man that saw them not. If you would know what this grand Treason produced, peruse the following Chapters which will inform you more plainly than can be expressed without a Fable.

CHAP. XXVIII.

How the King and all his Nobles returning home, ruminated the Fox's Confession, and what was the effect of their consultation.

WHen the Traytors were buried, and the Hands and Heads of Reynard and Hegrim fixed upon Poles, as is said. The King and his Nobles (being come home) sat down together in the Court, all of them pondering much the words of Reynard touching Bellins death. At length the King (as one greatly perplexed said, My Lords, & Friends it grieves me not a little, that our Chapl. Bellin, was long since so basely put to death and his Family ruined so as I question whether

Although innocent persons may long remain injured, yet in process of time, the cause of their oppression comes to be known and then the redress is nigh at hand.

any of that Stock be now remaining in the World. To this, one of the Kings Friends (who was present when Isegrim was chose chief Prelate) said, Soveraign Lord, think not so, for I am certain, that many of them were living when Isegrim was made Prelate; because I there saw several of them, but would not be known I saw them, for fear of your Majesties displeasure against them. Sure said the King it is not possible! I suppose your eye deceived you; however, if it were so then, it is too probable, that they are all dead since, because the Sons and Kindred of Isegrim, although very numerous, had all of them Furr-Gowns like Bellin's (which Isegrim himself wore) not long after they were confirmed in the Priestly Function: for many more of Isegrim's Kindred came into him after the choice of the Commons, than were that day present upon the Scaffold with us, and yet all these had such Fur-Gowns, which they could never have had, if so many of Bellin's Kindred had not been first slain and stript, &c. To this, the same Lord replied, Noble Sir, I am most certain, that in secret places of your Majesties Realm, there are thousands of them yet living. It is well if it be so, said the King. After this Discourse was ended, the King again said. Worthy Friends, I too well know, that we have confirmed the Priestly Office, not on Isegrim only, but on his whole Lineage and Kindred, who are all ravenous Beasts void of all goodness; nay I think, the worst of all Creatures living; although the For by his subtilty blinded my eyes, and Isegrims pretended demure carriage alienated my Judgment. For had honest Bellin yet lived, treacherous Reynard could never have thought of working our ruin; nor ever could that cursed Miscreant Isegrim, have contributed any assistance to his disloyal intentions. The young Prince seeing his Father speak with so great earnestness, said, Royal Father, why is your Majesty troubled at the Advancement of Isegrims Lineage, let it be signified by Proclamation, that in their Father's Crime, they have all forfeited their Offices; and besides, that upon good and sure grounds, your Majesty well knows

knows, that they are the Destroyers of your Subjects, and continually in their masked Habits, and under a pretence of Sanctity they rob, and pill them so bare, as of necessity your Kingdom must be ruined if they be permitted to live in all excess and riot; for of all the Beasts under your Majesties Authority, there are none so debauched and vicious as they. This Speech of the Prince was seconded by several others of the Kings Friends, all inveighing bitterly against Isegrim's Lineage. The King hearing this, said, Sirs, what think you is best to be done? If we lay aside this Generation (I mean displace them of their Offices) and yet let them hold their Wealth, they may in time by their Riches work us great wrong. To this that Friend of the Kings who first spake, said, Noble Sir, to lay aside this impious flock is honourable; but to take away their Wealth will have no good aspect in the eyes of the Vulgar (whose censure is seldom right) because they will impute their displacing to arise from no other cause, then that they were rich, or (to speak more plainly) because your Majesty was disposed to seize on all they had. Therefore if your Majesty please to displace the Wolves, there needs no care to be taken of the Wealth they have; for if other of your Subjects, whose eyes are open, do but once find that they are out of your Majesty's favour, which way the wealth of these Miscreants must needs go, any one (without the help of Astrology) may easily conjecture; because whensoever they are displaced and out of favour, there will be so many Complaints made of their Extortions, as (undoubtedly) all they have will be too little to make recompence for the wrong they have done. Besides, if none of all this be, they are such monstrous Glutions as will be necessitated to eat up all in a short time. You say well, said the King; I heartily believe, if all those Wolves were but strip of this their disguise, and compelled to put off their Furr-Gowns; the Blind then would as clearly see as the other clear sighted Beasts you speak of. It is true noble King, (said the same Lord) pull but off the Mask, there needs no more. Well then said the King, that I will not fail to do speedily.

Prudent advice to avoid Vulgar censure.

Many men wilingly are blinded, and by cunning Sycophants oppressed; because they judge of things as they appear and not as they really are in themselves.

Masks and Disguises constrain men to judgments.

CHAP. XXIX.

How the King made Proclamation, that no Beasts should walk disguised in other Garments, than what were naturally theirs, and what ensued thereupon.

THe next day early the King caused a Proclamation to be drawn, the tenour whereof ran thus.

Leo Rex,

Whereas several of our Subjects wear Disguises, and since under such Masks and false Habits, many Mischiefs have been committed, and some of those Persons allowed to wear such like Disguises, have proved Traytors to our Royal Crown and Dignity; We therefore will and command all our Subjects in general, whether high or low, of what state or condition so ever, that after ten days next ensuing the Publication hereof, they presume not to wear any Disguise whatsoever, nor at any time, day or night, to walk clothed in other Garments, than what are naturally their own; upon pain of being proceeded against as Traytors to our Royal Crown and Dignity, &c.

After the proclaiming and publishing hereof, Isegrims Lineage were greatly perplexed, because there was not one of them, if in Office but he wore a Furr-Gown, which was not his own natural Garment: Therefore they consult together what was fit to be done in such a time of affliction as this. But in all their Consultations they never thought of mending their manners, but how to insinuate into the King's favour, thereby to prevent this terrible storm, that (they saw) would make greatest spoil among them. But because their Father Isegrim, and Champion Reynard were dead, they could conceive no hope of obtaining their end, unless by bribing some of the principal Courtiers. This they resolve upon, and (though otherwise extream covetous) therefore every one liberally offers part of his wealth, which being given

given into the cuſtody of two of the oldeſt among them, thoſe two journey to Court, and carry (or cauſe to be carried) with them a great maſs of Treaſure, which they preſent to Sly-look the Panther, who was lately made the King's Steward, and Keeper of his Stores; withal proteſting to him, that they were utterly ignorant of their Fathers Treaſon, and therefore deſired the Kings Favour and Protection, which if he would procure, as they doubted not but he could, they would upon receiving his Majeſties Royal Patent, for preſerving them in their Offices and Habits, give him twice ſo much, as they had now preſented him with. The Panther takes the Preſent, and with a pretended ſecreſie, cauſes it to be conveyed into his own Lodgings; then he bids them wait a while, and he would move the King in their behalf. They ſtay without in hopes of ſpeeding well, but Sly look ſhews all the Treaſure he had taken, to the King, withal telling him, how he came by it, and for what end it was preſented him. The King hearing his relation, and ſeeing ſo great a maſs of Wealth, with a promiſe of twice ſo much; feared they would (being ſo rich) be able to injure him at one time or other; therefore, before he would let the Panther give any anſwer to the two Wolves, he adviſed with his Lords and Friends thereabout. When they heard the whole matter, they told the King, if his Majeſty pleaſed, they could eaſily rid him of his fear; for, ſay they, let your Steward Sly-look put them off for this time, with a delay, ſaying your Majeſty is not at leiſure. When they come again, let him tell them, unleſs they bring him more Treaſure, he will not trouble himſelf in the buſineſs, or the like. If the Steward manage his affairs well, he may eaſily get all their Wealth into his hands. To this ye King ſaid, I am content to leave the buſineſs wholly to my Lord Sly-looks diſcretion. Therefore my Lord (the King turning himſelf to ye Panther) Sly-look I give you as large a commiſſion as you will, provided you do not in my name promiſe a continuation of their Diſguiſe. The Panther goes to the two Wolves, tells them, his Majeſty is now very buſie in Council, therefore he can do nothing till the

Wicked perſons in diſtreſs think not of taking good courſes, but ſtudy how by indirect means to acquit themſelves of the preſent danger. Alſo they being unfaithful themſelves can very rarely find a faithful friend, as appears by the Panthers action, here related.

next



next day, then ſo ſoon as he underſtood they were come, he would ſpeak to the King. But next time they came, he told them he had preſented all that they gave him to another Lord, and left himſelf nothing; for he perceived they had few Friends in the Court, therefore he ſhould need much more Treaſure than they gave him yeſterday, otherwiſe all he

he could do would ſignifie nothing; for, ſaid he, if leſs than four Lords be engaged for you, when your buſineſs comes to the Vote, it will be impoſſible to carry it. With theſe and like Expreſſions he drew almoſt all the Wealth of Iſegrims whole Lineage into the Kings Coffers; and at length brought in theſe two Wolves before the King. When the King ſaw them, he ſaid, what do you already begin to tread the ſteps of the Traytor your Father? They anſwer trembling, No, and it pleaſe your Majeſty. Why then did you bribe my Steward with ſo great a maſs of Wealth? more I fear, then ever you came honeſtly by. At this, they ſtood amazed, and knew not what to ſay. Then the King (turning to the Panther) ſaid, My Lord you have their Treaſure, ſee it be not diminiſhed, nor mixed with any of mine, for I purpoſe, now 'tis here, it ſhall be kept until I am better informed touching this perfidious Generation; for I ſuſpect, I ſhall ere long have ſo many complaints exhibited againſt them, as all this Treaſure they have brought, and much more will not repay the damages they have done. In the mean while (turning to the Wolves) he ſaid, See you demean your ſelves peaceably, and when the date of our Proclamation is out, be ſure that none of you be found in this Diſguiſe; for whoſoever he be that preſumes to wear a Diſguiſe one day after that prefixed time, he ſhall certainly die as a Traytor. As to your Offices, I do not take them from you preſently, but as you demean your ſelves, ſo you may enjoy them ſometime longer, or but for a very ſhort time; the laſt of which I rather think.

Having ſaid this, he diſmiſſed the Lords, who were ſat in Counſel with him. So the Wolves departed ſad enough.

CHAP. XXX.

How the King desirous to see some of *Bellins* Kindred, caused three of the oldest of them to be sent for, &c.

When the cause of jealousie is removed, cheerfulness necessarily follows.

AFter the Wealth of the Wolves was thus taken, and the Kings jealousie thereabout allayed, he became very pleasant and merry; and in that merry mood, said, My Friends, I should be glad to see some of the Rams Kindred; therefore if any of you know them our pleasure is, that he go to them, and bring two or three of the oldest among them, before us. Then the Lord, who had before told the King there were thousands of them living in secret places, said, If it be your Majesties pleasure to see any of Bellins stock, I can easily satisfie your Majesty therein, for I am familiarly acquainted with many of them, especially with Bellins Grandson, and two more of the Eldest of them, who by reason of their discretion, have retired themselves from the fury of the Bear and Wolf, and live safely in a small piece of ground well fenced. The King hearing this, said, Send for the three you speak of, or go your self and fetch them. So that Lord immediately went to the Meadow, where they three dwelt alone; and first saluted them (as he was wont at other times) afterward told his Errand, withal in what condition the Wolfs Kindred stood, and how they were like to lose their Offices suddenly. They knowing the realty of their Friend doubted nothing, but went along with him to the Court. When they were thither come, they by the same Lord, were brought into the Kings presence, who looking cheerfully upon them, said, I am glad to see you indeed, for I supposed you had been all destroyed before this time. I do confess, when I gave my consent to the publishing that Edict, I thought I had done that which was right; but since understanding by the Tray-tor Reynards own words, that he was the Murtherer of Kayward, and not your Father; I heartily repented of what I had

had done. Therefore before you depart from us, we will abolish that law, and every part of it totally, as if it had never been. Accordingly that Law was repealed and made void that very day, and Proclamation made, that if any Beast whatsoever committed any outrage against any of Bellins Lineage, young or old, they should die for it. Upon this, these three persons were so well satisfied and assured of their peace and safety, as they came daily to visit this Lord, and sometimes went in to the King himself, owning his favour and protection as the greatest happiness that could befall them. Also the King himself delighted in their company very much; for seeing their simplicity and good behaviour, he was not weary of seeing them, but rather thought they were long absent, if he saw them not once a day.

And a good Prince, having once consented to the wrong of other, through the perfidious actings of treacherous persons is never satisfied till he hath compleatly recompenced that wrong as far as is possible.

CHAP. XXXI.

How the Wolves behaved themselves in their Offices after the Date of the Proclamation was expired, and how they were suddenly ruined.

By this time the ten days expressed in the Kings Proclamation were fully ended, and the Wolves (much against their wills) had laid aside their Disguises. Upon this whensoever any one of the Commons came to any of their Houses to commune with them, or present them any thing, so soon as he saw the Wolf (not masked) he would run away as hard as he could; and acquaint all he met, that he went to one of the Prelates Sons, and found none in his house, except a Wolf looking gastly upon him. The Wolves perceiving they were utterly undone, if their Clients should be constantly thus frighted, knew not what course to take: therefore the subtilest of them, when any of the Commons came, either to see them, or to pay their Tres, or to present them with ought, laid themselves down, pretending they were not well, and that they might not be seen as they were, they spread over them a Coverlet of some other skin,

(as if they were laid in a Sweat by the Phisicians order) and so under that would speak, advising them to leave what they brought, in such or such a corner of the House. This shift held water a while, but long it could not; for the most inconsiderate, and the youngest of the Wolves would rather run the hazard than be starved; therefore they again put on their Gowns, and such as came to them then, were not frighted, as the other (who saw them without these Gowns) had been. But so soon as this was blazed abroad, some of Bellins friends came to the Houses of these foolish Wolves, and well marking them, said nothing, but went and immediately informed against them; offering to prove their contempt of the King and his Laws. When this their Relation was heard by the King, he sent for those Wolves, and after proof made of their contempt, he hanged up Seventeen of them; for no more were then taken the other being fled for fear. The Execution of these terrified all the other so, as if you would have perswaded them (with an assurance of never so great secresie) to have put their Gowns on again but for one minute, they would not have done it: nay, they absolutely hated that Garb ever after. By this means the Wolves were in extream penury; and needs must so be: for in a very short time it was known to all the Commons, that the Lineage of Pitwood, and he himself, had been and were, all very Wolves, and that Fur-Gown which Pitwood himself wore, and all the Gowns of his Lineage, were the true and natural Garments of Bellin, and Bellins Kindred, which Garments they took from them, as often as any one of that Race fell into their hands. The matter being thus clearly known, the King had no need to think of displacing them; because their Offices fell from them immediately after it was fully understood what they were. For all the Commons did not only fly from them, but also banded together against them; & if in the day-time any one of them stirred abroad, he was in danger of his Life, they all crying, A Wolf, a Wolf, kill him, kill him. This hard usage made the Wolves to keep close,

Wolfish Natures when openly seen, are abominable to all.

and



and not be seen abroad at all in the day-time: [illegible] they of necessity must go forth to purvey for food, and accordingly they did, but always in fear of being taken; so as they ever after led a poor and miserable Life, until they either died, or were forgot.

CHAP XXXII.

How the King rejoycing at the Wolves ruin, distributed their wealth among the Commons, and then openly shewed his love to Nilm's Kindred, and commanded all his Subjects to follow their Instructions, &c.

WHen the King saw the effect of his Proclamation, what a ruin it had brought on Isegrims Lineage, he was highly contented in his mind and said (to that Lord, who before said, Pull but off the Mask, and there needs no more) now my Friend the Mask is off, and there needs no more. With that, the same Lord bowed himself and said, Your Majesty is now freed from the care of displacing them. But who would have thought, they should so suddenly have been ruined? How could it be otherwise, said the King? certainly the Traytor Reynard well knew, that Isegrim would never have been admitted by the Commons into his Office, had he not worn that Disguise. For Isegrim and his whole Tribe were always hateful to the Commons, and would always have been so, if Reynards policy had not been observed and put in practice by them. Besides, Isegrim (for his own part) carried himself so demurely, and spake so seldom, as even I my self was more than half perswaded, he had changed his nature, and with his new Gown put on another Nature, directly contrary to that of his own. But I now clearly see, that a Wolf will be a Wolf, what Coat soever he wears. Therefore I am heartily glad his whole Lineage is at this time reduced to their pristine condition. Nevertheless, that I may not in time to come be upbraided by any of those ungrateful Beasts, with the retaining their Treasure, I will speedily order the distribution of the same, among the Commons in general, especially, amongst those who have sustained damage by them.

The true Emblem of a Noble Prince.

The next day the King called all his Lords and Friends to Council, where he declared his intentions of distributing the

the Treasure of the Wolves among the Commons, and principally among such as had sustained loss, or injury by them. To this they all assented, applauding the Kings Nobleness. Then the King commanded the Lord Sly lock, and his Cousin Firrapel the Libbard, to order the distribution thereof with as much equity as was possible.

Now while this was a doing, the King again called his Lords and Friends about him, and said, Worthy Friends, We unadvisedly and through false accusation condemned our Chaplain Bellin, and his Kindred; therefore, since our error is discovered, and the Murther for which Bellin was condemned, is acknowledged by Reynard, that false Traytor, to be perpetrated by himself; it concerns us in some extraordinary manner to recompence the great wrongs that Family hath sustained for so long a time, and all that through a misunderstanding of ours, and through too great credulity of what we saw: for though Bellin brought Reynard the Hare's head to us, yet the Fox slew the Hare, and put it in his own Male, and then tyed the Male about Bellins Neck; through which notorious crime craftily veiled, by that wretched Miscreant Reynard our judgment was deceived, Bellin was put to Death, his Lineage made a prey to the Bear and the Wolf, and we and all our Family brought even to the brink of ruin.

These words were uttered by the King with so great earnestness, as all his Lords and Friends were very much affected therewith, therefore they said, It is in your Majesties power to honour and respect them, as much as you please; we all will readily obey in whatsoever your Majesty shall command thereabout. The King hearing them thus speak, said, Worthy Friends, since you so readily have offred to follow our Advice, and obey our Commands, we accept the same kindly; and therefore will now offer what we think most expedient in this case.

You all know, we by our Proclamation have already taken them into our Protection; yet you nor we our self can-

not

not suppose that a sufficient recompence; therefore, since raise the Dead we cannot, to the Living let us shew as much kindness as shall be convenient; for when the Commons perceive that we not only protect, but also respect Bellins Kindred, they in imitation of us will do the like. And that our respect, and the good opinion we have of them, may the more certainly be known to all our Subjects in general, we will give command, that they all behave themselves lovingly and friendly towards them; so doing undoubtedly, we shall unite all our meaner Subjects in love each to other, and we ourselves be so much the more happy.

This resolution of the Kings was immediately assented to, and put in execution. And from that day forward the Ram's Kindred walked up and down safely and found friends and friendly Entertainment in all places wheresoever they came. The King himself, and his Nobles observing the great Gravity of this Stock by him supposed to be utterly extinct) made Bellins Grandson his Counsellor, all the other Nobles seeing this, entertained one, or more of the Ram's Kindred, to be always residing in, or near their own Lodgings. This familiarity with Bellin Kindred wrought an alteration in the King and Lords; for they heretofore were wont to fare deliciously, and to feed on divers sorts of meats, also upon slight occasions to be choleric and angry; they now seeing the great temperance and meekness of their new Sociates, began to feed more sparingly, and not of so many sorts at one time; holding this course a while, they found themselves not so prone to choler or anger as before. The King observing this change not in himself only but in all his Friends and Nobles, was willing to propagate it further; therefore he by publick Proclamation commanded all his Subjects high and low to entertain familiarity with the Ram's Kindred, also to take example by them, and follow their Instructions in all things tending to sobriety and love. This Proclamation was gladly obeyed by the Commons in general, who ever after lives in such peace and love, as the like

As evil Communication corrupts good Manners, so on the other hand, good Examples if followed, produce the well-being of Mankind.

like hath scarcely ever been heard of since the beginning of that Kingdom. The King finding this change in all his Subjects universally, was highly pleased, and rewarded all his Friends nobly.

The height of all Happiness in this world, consists in the Righteousness of King and People.

A POSTSCRIPT.

Friendly Reader,

IN the foregoing History, I have not in any wise deviated from my first intention, which was to frame a Second Part to the delightful *History of Reynard the Fox*, which might yield thee both pleasure and profit. If any one be offended, let his offence be to himself; my intent was not to give distaste but delight. Nor have I in the foregoing History let slip any Expressions tending to the vitiating, or debauching of Youth, but have rather couched my words so, as the intelligent may be profited, and the ingenious not injured. Therefore I desire this my Labour may be as well taken as meant; If so, I shall be encouraged to divulge a more serious piece (not of Beasts but of Men) so soon as time and opportunity will permit. Farewell.

FINIS.

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